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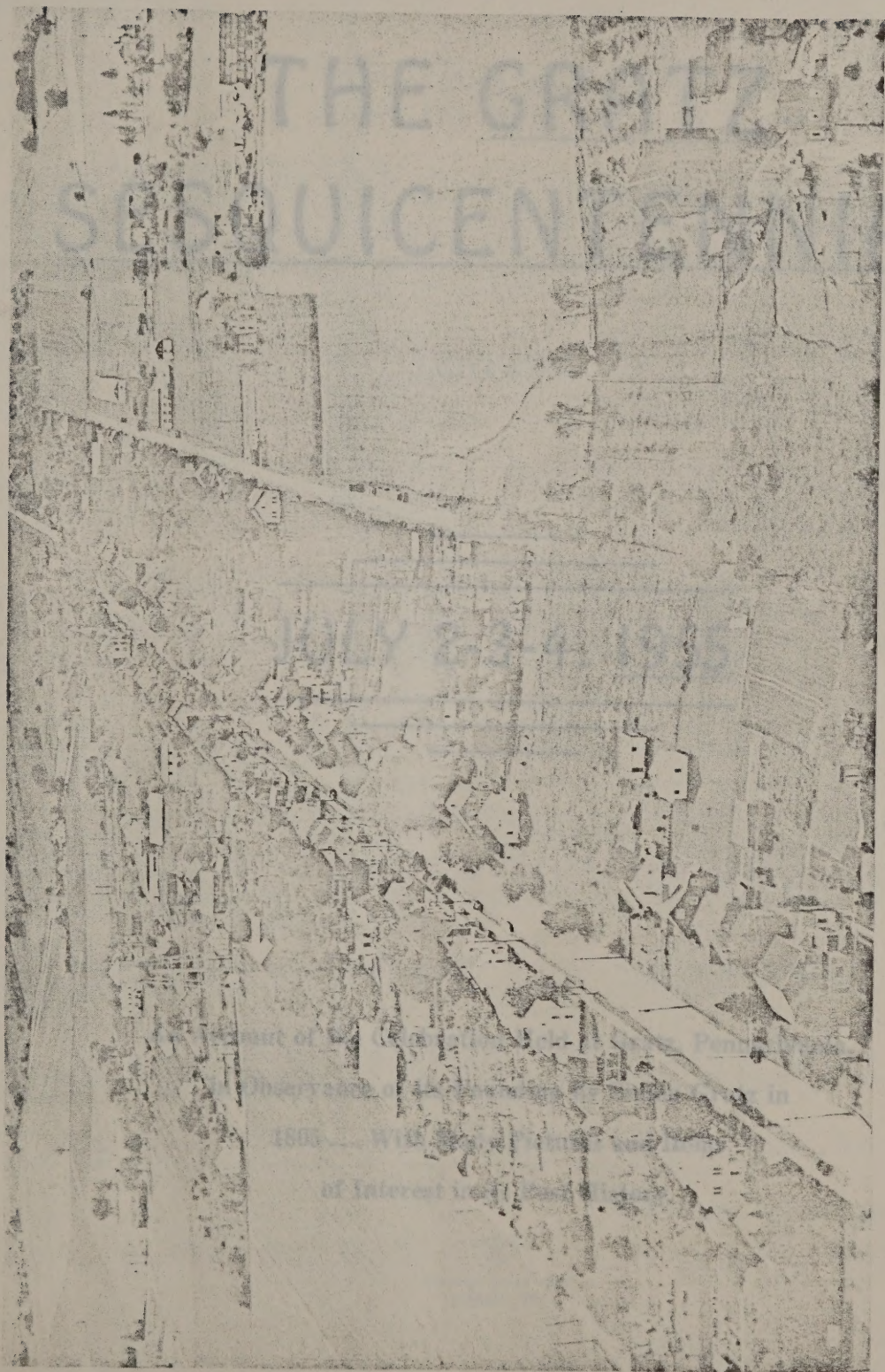
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THE GRATZ
SESQUICENTENNIAL



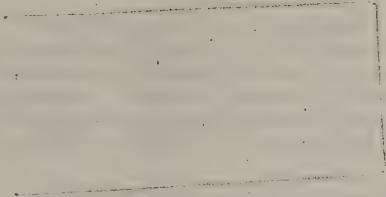
Aeroplane View of Gratz, looking west

THE GRATZ SESQUICENTENNIAL

JULY 2-3-4, 1955

An Account of the Celebration Held at Gratz, Pennsylvania,
in Observance of its Founding by Simon Gratz in
1805 . . . With Many Pictures and Items
of Interest in its Past History.

RECEIVED



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U.S.A.

SUNBURY DAILY ITEM
Sunbury, Pa.

FOREWORD

The publication of this book in connection with the Gratz Sesquicentennial activities was an afterthought. Originally the members of the Sesquicentennial committee felt that because of the small size of the town and surrounding community, a book would be out of the question. Happily, however, the support of many people who made cash contributions, and of business concerns who bought advertising space in the program made the financing of this volume possible. We acknowledge this support with gratitude.

Largely because of our late starting this book is unique in its class in three ways: 1. Since it was not printed before the celebration, as is customary, it enabled us to include a complete account of the Sesquicentennial, including many pictures. 2. It is free from all advertising. 3. It contains, we can modestly say, much more reading matter than any other similar volume which has come to our attention. It was not thrown together hurriedly.

Most of the book, with the exception of some of the family histories, was in type by the end of 1955, and should give a true picture of the town as it was in 1955, the year of the Sesquicentennial. In very few instances will you find references to events of 1956. Blank pages have been included in the back of the book for your own notes and pictures.

The writers have made every effort to document the various articles. For some of the statements no documentary evidence could be found, and the writers had to depend on information supplied by people in the best position to know the facts concerning a particular topic. The various articles are signed by the writers. If you are not in agreement with the facts as stated in any article, the writer thereof would be glad to hear from you.

The committee acknowledges its gratitude to the many sources of the material contained in this volume. Since it is obviously impossible to list the names of all the Gratz-towners, past and present, who contributed information and old pictures, we take this means of thanking each and every one of you.

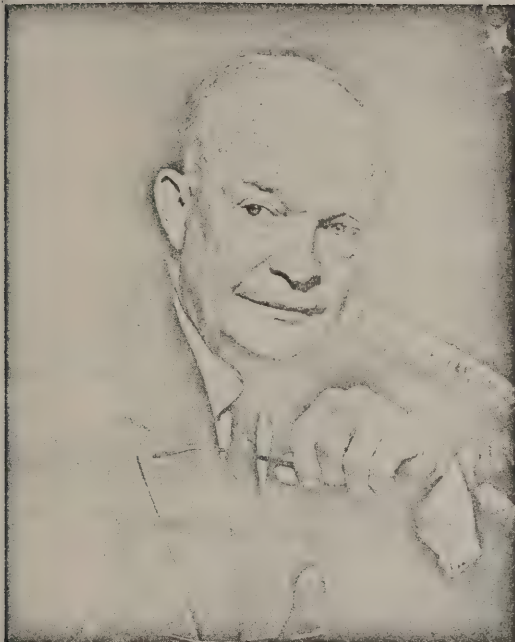
We also want to make thankful acknowledgment to the following organizations in other communities who have been helpful: The Pennsylvania State Museum, The State Library, The Dauphin County Superintendent's Office, The Johnson Memorial Library, The Land Grant Office and The Department of Military Affairs. Also to the following newspapers for the generous use of their files: The Millersburg Sentinel, The Valley Citizen, The Elizabethtown Echo and The Lykens Standard.

Much information was gleaned from The Dauphin County Atlas (1875), Dr. Egle's History of Dauphin County (1883) and the Biographical Encyclopedia of Dauphin County (1896).

Most of the manuscript was typed by Violet Kessler and Janice Buffington, with some assistance from Nancy Hoffner, Sally Shadle and Sue Ellen Deibler, all students in the Upper Dauphin High School. Their help is greatly appreciated.

That this volume will come up to your expectations, and that you and future generations may derive pleasure and profit from it, is the earnest wish of

THE BOOK COMMITTEE



President Dwight D. Eisenhower

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W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

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WA-024 LONG GOVT PD=THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC 25 1126AME=
THE HONORABLE JAMES H DUFF=
UNITED STATES SENATE=

PLEASE EXTEND MY CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITIZENS OF THE
BOROUGH OF GRATZ ON ITS ONE HUNDRED FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
I HOPE THE OBSERVANCE OF THIS EVENT WILL DRAW ATTENTION
TO THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA OVER THE
YEARS, AND TO THE CONTRIBUTION WHICH THE STATE HAS MADE
TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF OUR COUNTRY. I KNOW THAT YOU WILL
HAVE A SUCCESSFUL CELEBRATION. TO ALL ATTENDING IT, MY
GREETINGS AND WARM BEST WISHES=

DWIGHT D EISENHOWER=

OFFICE OF
RECEIVED
JUN 27 1955
SENATOR DUFF



Governor George M. Leader
(Photo by Pa. Dept. of Commerce, Harrisburg)



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
HARRISBURG

September 20, 1955

Mr. Clayton H. Willier
R. D. 1
Lykens, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Willier:

It is with a great deal of personal pleasure that I extend to the residents of Gratz the felicitations and well wishes of your Administration and of your fellow citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on the memorable occasion of the Sesquicentennial of the foundation of your town.

Pennsylvania has grown on the grass roots strength of constructive enterprise that has marked the development of its many rural and urban communities whose inhabitants have seized the opportunities for civic and economic progress that so abundantly exist within our borders.

For more than 150 years Gratz has played its part in the forward march of Pennsylvania as a symbol of the fruitful agricultural activities of our State's central district and as a center of trade for the many prosperous farms and agricultural establishments that make up its environment.

A town cannot survive for so great a length of time without the continuing existence of a sense of civic devotion and community spirit present among its people. The people of Gratz may well be proud of a past that is a stirring token of an even greater future.

I congratulate you and your fellow citizens of Gratz who have made this community so representative of the best in the Pennsylvania tradition.

Sincerely yours,

George M. Leader

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
FOREWORD - - - - -	3
TELEGRAM FROM PRESIDENT EISENHOWER - - - - -	4
LETTER FROM GOVERNOR LEADER - - - - -	5

PART I—PROGRAM

PROGRAM - - - - -	19
THE GRATZ PAGEANT - - - - -	27
OLD TIMERS' BASEBALL GAME - - - - -	32
ADDRESS OF WELCOME - - - - -	34
CHIEF OF POLICE'S MESSAGE - - - - -	34
THE GRATZ SESQUICENTENNIAL QUEEN - - - - -	35
BROTHERS OF THE BRUSH - - - - -	38
COSMETICS AND SUNBONNETS - - - - -	40
SESQUICENTENNIAL OF GRATZ (POEM) - - - - -	40
DONORS AND WINNERS OF GRANDSTAND PRIZES - - - - -	40
PRIZES DONATED BY HARRISBURG MERCHANTS FOR LUCKY SEATS ON GRANDSTAND - - - - -	41
DONORS AND WINNERS OF PRIZES FOR CONTRIBUTORS OF CAKES - - - - -	41
OUR THANKS TO MARY SACHS - - - - -	41
PARADE PRIZE WINNERS GRATZ SESQUICENTENNIAL - - - - -	42

PART II—EVENTS OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

INTRODUCING THE LYKENS VALLEY - - - - -	45
DRAINAGE OF THE LYKENS VALLEY - - - - -	45
OUR INDIAN PREDECESSORS - - - - -	45
INDIANS IN THE LYKENS VALLEY - - - - -	46
THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR - - - - -	47
THE STORY OF ANDREW LYKENS (LYCANS) - - - - -	48
GLEANINGS FROM AN OLD BOOK - - - - -	49
UPPER PAXTANG - - - - -	51
THE EVOLUTION OF OUR POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS - - - - -	51
ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION - - - - -	52
CONRAD WEISER AND THE TULPEHOCKEN PATH - - - - -	53
THE EISENHOWERS IN THE LYKENS VALLEY - - - - -	55
SIMON GRATZ AND HIS PEOPLE - - - - -	57
REBECCA GRATZ - - - - -	59
GRATZ AND LYKENS TOWNSHIP IN 1875 - - - - -	60
WE ALMOST HAD A RAILROAD - - - - -	61
GRATZ BANKS - - - - -	64
BIG FIRE AT GRATZ - - - - -	65

	PAGE
OTHER GRATZ FIRES - - - - -	68
GRATZ WATER SUPPLY COMPANY - - - - -	68
ELECTRIC LIGHTS COME TO GRATZ - - - - -	69
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL EVENTS OF THE PAST - - - - -	70
1. LITERARY SOCIETIES	
2. THE SPELLING BEE	
3. SLEIGHING PARTIES	
4. HAY RIDES	
5. WEDDING SERENADES	
6. DRAMATIC CLUBS	
7. THE CHAUTAUQUA	
8. THE MEDICINE SHOW	
9. QUILTING PARTIES	
10. OLD TIME SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNICS	

PART III—SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

THE STORY OF OUR SCHOOLS - - - - -	77
THE LYKENS TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS - - - - -	82
SIMEON'S LUTHERAN AND REFORMED CHURCH - - - - -	84
EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH - - - - -	86
HOFFMAN'S CHURCH - - - - -	87
KLINGER'S CHURCH - - - - -	88
COLEMAN'S CHURCH - - - - -	89
EMMANUEL WESLEYAN CHURCH - - - - -	90

PART IV—ORGANIZATIONS

THE GRATZ FAIR 1873 - 1955 - - - - -	91
GRATZ FAIR ASSOCIATION BRINGS FIRST AEROPLANE TO THE VALLEY	93
THE GRATZ DRUM CORPS - - - - -	94
THE GRATZ BANDS - - - - -	94
GRATZ FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS - - - - -	95
INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS - - - - -	95
PATRIOTIC ORDER SONS OF AMERICA - - - - -	96
KNIGHTS OF THE GOLDEN EAGLE - - - - -	96
OTHER ORGANIZATIONS - - - - -	96
GRATZ GRANGE - - - - -	96
GRATZ AMERICAN LEGION - - - - -	97
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNITS - - - - -	98
COMMUNITY LIBRARY - - - - -	98
GRATZ FIRE COMPANY - - - - -	99
GRATZ BOY SCOUTS, TROOP 87 - - - - -	100
ORIGINAL GRATZ GIRL SCOUTS - - - - -	101

	PAGE
OLD TIMERS - - - - -	102
GRATZ CIVIC CLUB - - - - -	103
JUNIOR BAND ASSOCIATION - - - - -	103

PART V—INDUSTRIES

GRATZ STONE QUARRIES - - - - -	104
COAL INDUSTRY - - - - -	104
INDUSTRIES OF GRATZ AND THE VALLEY - - - - -	105
THE GRATZ SHIRT FACTORY - - - - -	108
THE HANOVER CANNING COMPANY - - - - -	110
INDUSTRIES OF THE PAST - - - - -	110
LUMBERING	
BRICK MAKING	
TANNING	
THRESHING	

PART VI—MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

ROADS TO GRATZ AND THE VALLEY - - - - -	114
FIRST HOUSE IN GRATZ - - - - -	115
YEAR WITHOUT A SUMMER - - - - -	115
GRATZ PRICES IN 1825 - - - - -	116
WAGES PAID FOR FARM LABOR - - - - -	116
FARM PRICES AND WAGES 50 YEARS AGO - - - - -	117
BUSINESS DIRECTORY OF GRATZ — 1875 - - - - -	118
HONOR ROLLS OF OUR VARIOUS WARS - - - - -	118
BATTALION DAY - - - - -	122
SCHOOL EXHIBITION OF GRATZTOWN SCHOOL No. 1 - - - - -	122
STORY OF SONG "O! SUSIE OWL" - - - - -	124
USHT PENNSYLVANISH DEITCH - - - - -	125
NEW YEAR CELEBRATION FROM GRATZ - - - - -	125
NEI YOHR AWSCHIESSE - - - - -	126
DER NEI YOHR'S WUNCH - - - - -	127
BASEBALL IN GRATZ - - - - -	127
DID YOU KNOW, OR DO YOU REMEMBER THAT— - - - -	130
PHYSICIANS OF GRATZ - - - - -	132
GRATZ BOROUGH COUNCIL 1955 - - - - -	133
GRATZ BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD 1955 - - - - -	133
OTHER BOROUGH OFFICIALS 1955 - - - - -	133
SOME FORMER JUSTICES OF THE PEACE AND CONSTABLES - - - - -	133
THE AL SHADE SHOW - - - - -	134

PART VII—FAMILY HISTORIES

	PAGE
ADAMS FAMILY - - - - -	135
BLYLER FAMILY - - - - -	138
BUFFINGTON (BENJAMIN) FAMILY - - - - -	141
DEIBLER (MATHIAS) FAMILY - - - - -	152
GOOD (DANIEL) FAMILY (REEDY AND BOYER) - - - - -	154
HEPLER (ISAAC) FAMILY - - - - -	157
HESS FAMILY - - - - -	158
HOFFMAN (SQUIRE GEORGE) - - - - -	162
HORN, DR. ARTHUR ALBERT - - - - -	162
KLINGER FAMILY (FAE KLINGER UMHOLTZ) - - - - -	163
KLINGER FAMILY - - - - -	165
MILLER, CAROLINA (KLINGER) MILLER - - - - -	167
MOYER FAMILY - - - - -	170
ROGERS FAMILY - - - - -	172
ROMBERGER FAMILY - - - - -	173
SCHMINKY FAMILY - - - - -	174
SHIRO FAMILY - - - - -	176
SMITH, HARRY - - - - -	178
STINE FAMILY - - - - -	180
WISE FAMILY (CHARLES M.) - - - - -	183
WITMER FAMILY - - - - -	184
CONTRIBUTORS TO SESQUICENTENNIAL - - - - -	185
1955 - 1956 ADDENDA - - - - -	187

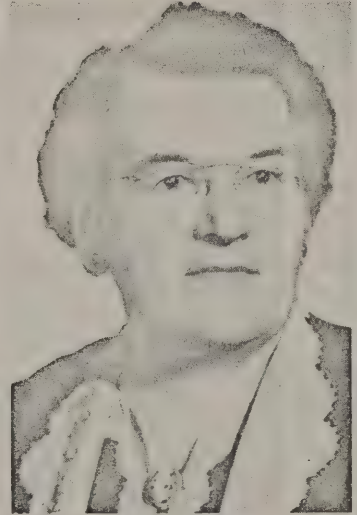
MAP AND DIRECTORY SUPPLEMENT

NOTES ON THE MAP OF LAND GRANTS - - - - -	189
NOTES ON LYKENS TOWNSHIP MAP OF 1862 - - - - -	189
NOTES ON GRATZ MAP OF 1862 - - - - -	189
NOTES ON LYKENS TOWNSHIP MAP OF 1875 - - - - -	190
NOTES ON GRATZ MAP OF 1875 - - - - -	190
NOTES ON LYKENS TOWNSHIP MAP OF 1955 - - - - -	190
NOTES ON GRATZ BOROUGH MAP OF 1955 - - - - -	190
LYKENS TOWNSHIP 1955 - - - - -	191
RESIDENTS OF GRATZ AS OF JULY 2, 1955 - - - - -	194

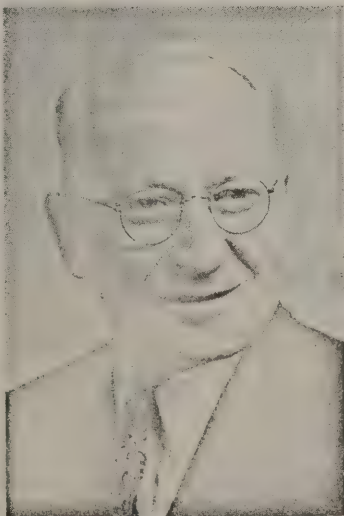
OFFICERS OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL



Gilbert Koppenhaver
President



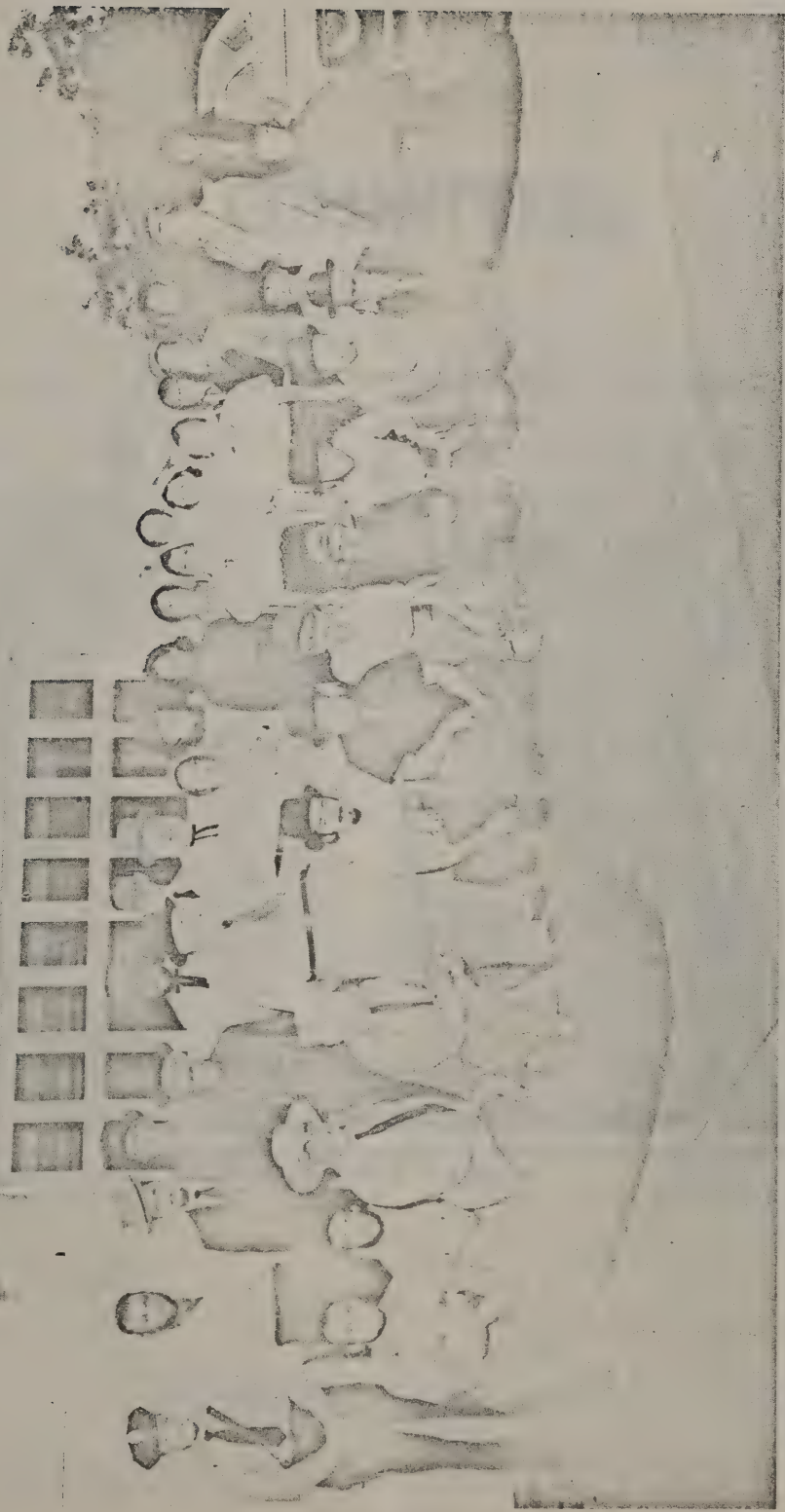
Blanche Hepler
Vice President



Lloyd M. Bellis
Secretary

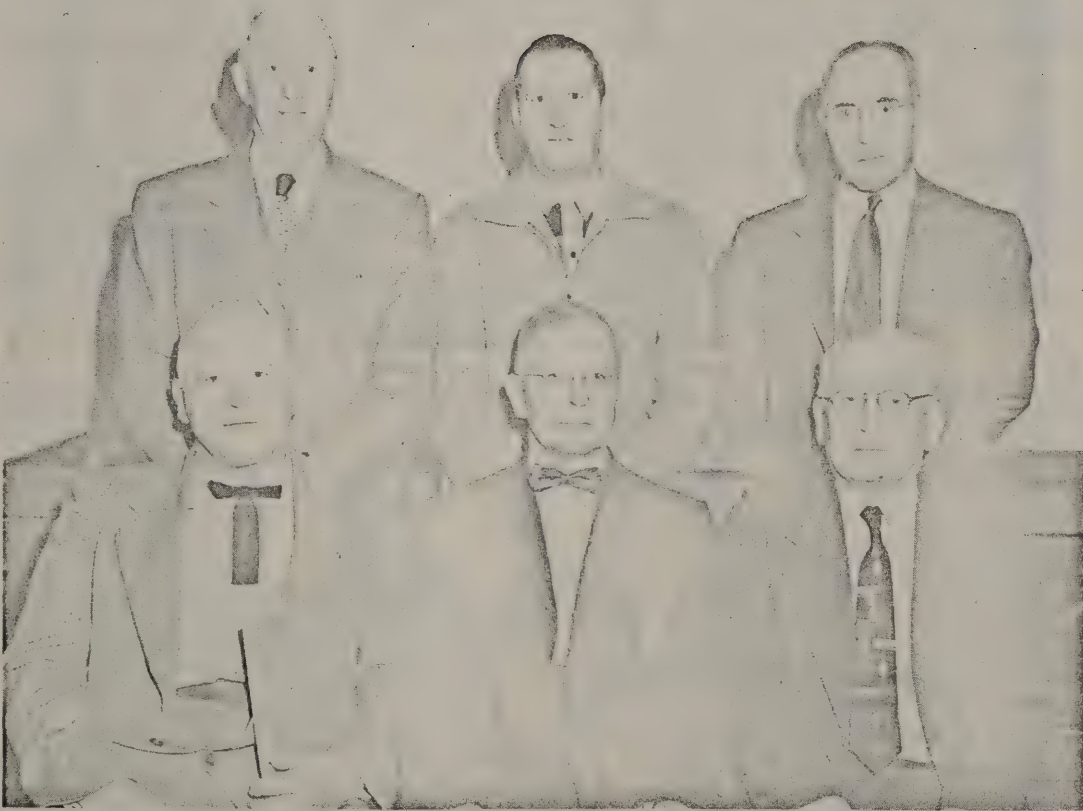


Mrs. Helen E. Horn
Treasurer

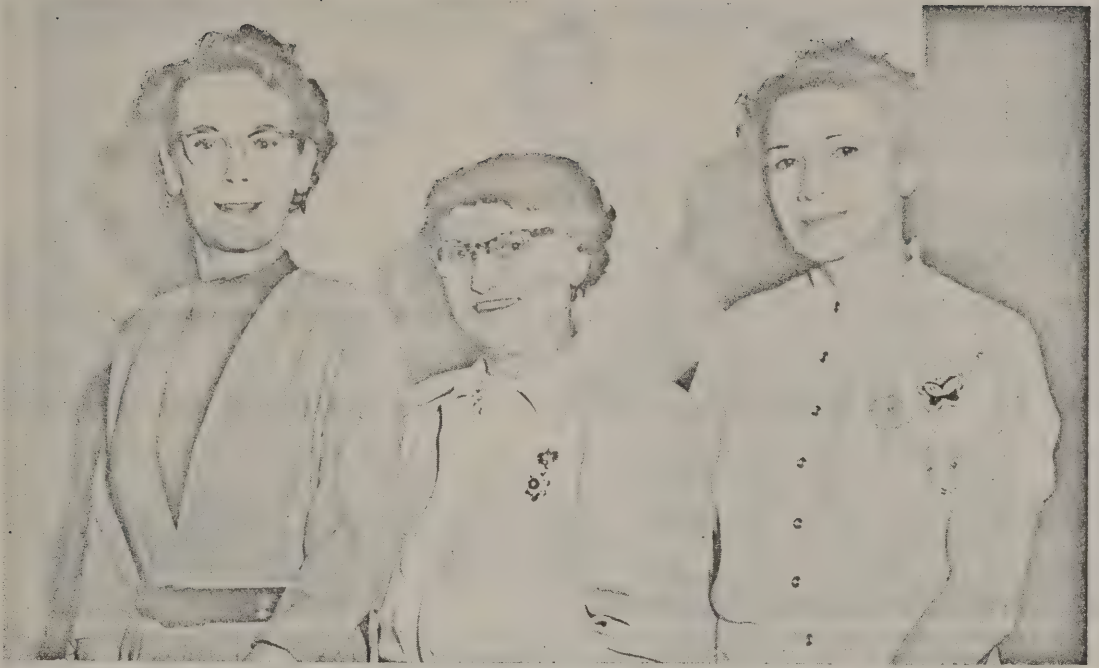


Committee members and others before a meeting two weeks prior to Sesquicentennial. Front row (left to right)—Gilbert Koppenhaver, John Leitzel, Art Blyler, Lloyd Bellis, Claude Buffington (standing), Melvin Swartz, Floyd Klinger, Alvin Daniels, Ossie Wiest, Jack Shade, John Miller, Joe Keen, John Romberger, Mae Boger. Rear row—Carl Sittlinger, Alvin Williard, Melvin Stroup, Ralph Troxell, Clarence Koppenhaver, Robert Rothermel, Harry Zerfing, Clayton Willier, Mabel Willier, Hannah Clark, Mina Coleman, Anna Brosius, Mary Hepler, Elsie Felsburg, Fae Stroup, Sula Witmer, Lucille Shade, Hannah Hartman, Frieda Koppenhaver, Blanche Hepler, Avis Gottschall.

COMMITTEES



Bock Committee. Front row (left to right)—Clayton H. Willier, Naldy Leitzel, Lloyd M. Bellis. Rear row—George F. Klinger, Earle P. Hoffman, Dr. C. J. Umholtz.



Antique Display Committee. (Left to right)—Marie Stine, Mae Boger, Freida Koppenhaver. Not shown: Hannah Clark, Carolyn Witmer, Miriam Boyer, Esther Williard.



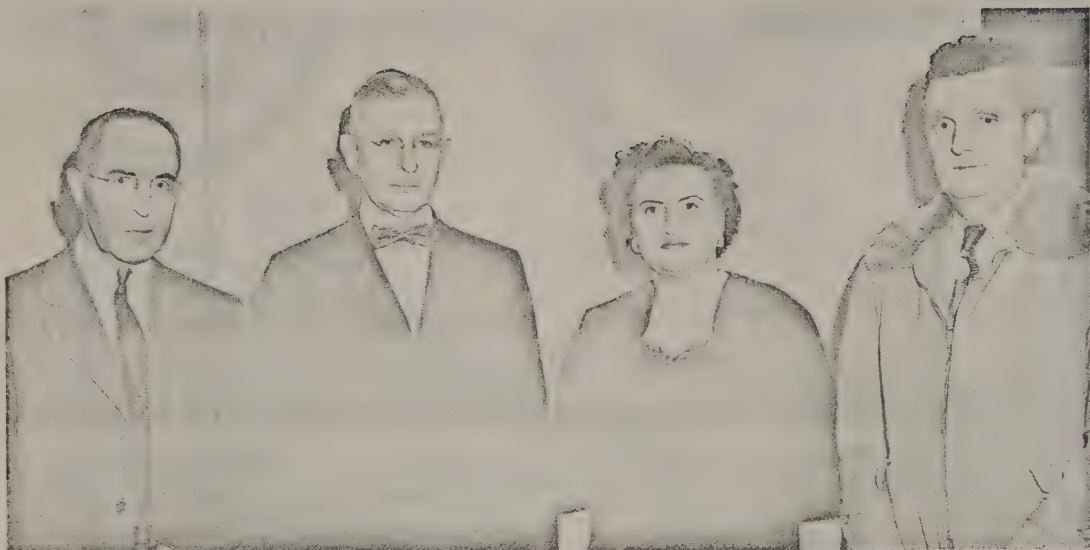
Refreshment Committee. Front row (left to right)—Alma Hartman, Mrs. Irvin C. Adams, Mrs. Naldy Leitzel, Dorothy Shade. Rear row—Edna Hess, Daisy Koppenhaver, Mary Wiest, Elsie Felsburg. Not shown: Mrs. George Hartman, Marie Kebaugh, Mrs. Jay Brosius.



Cosmetics and Sunbonnet Committee. Front row (left to right)—Anna Sitlinger, Esther Williard, Mary Wiest, Sula Witmer. Rear row—Mae Boger, Marie Stine, Elsie Felsburg. Not shown: Naomi Starr, Fae Strcup, Hilda Rothermel, Hannah Maurer, Evelyn Reed, Shirley Klinger.



Program Committee. (Left to right)—Dr. C. J. Umholtz, Mae Boger, Blanche Hepler, Harry C. Zerfing. Not shown: John Williard, Wilbur Buffington.



Finance Committee. (Left to right)—Dr. C. J. Umholtz, Naldy Leitzel, Mrs. Helen E. Horn, Irvin C. Adams. Not shown: Harold Umholtz, Derl Rebuck, S. O. Smeltz, Robert Rothermel, Allen L. Shade.



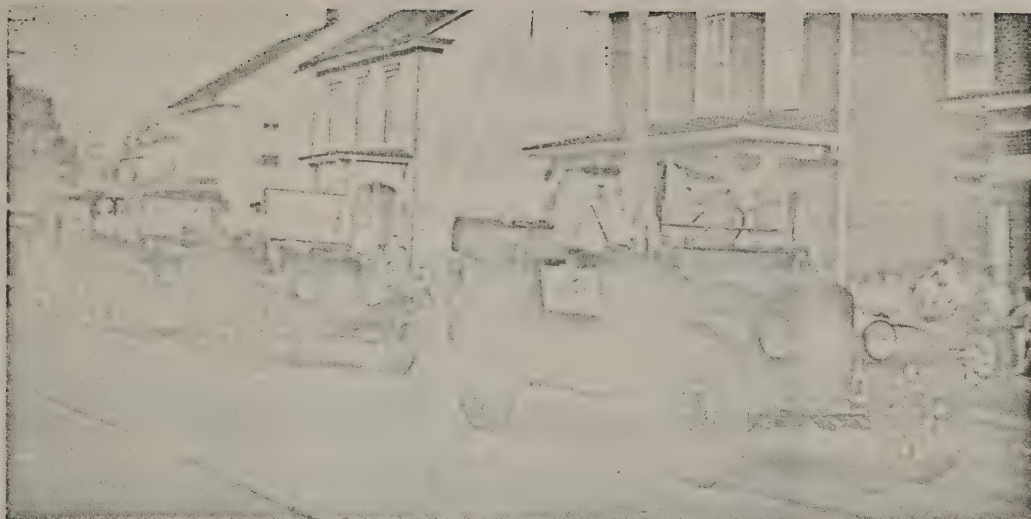
Parade Committee. Front row (left to right)—Claude Buffington, Leo Rogers, Marlin Heim, Ruth Spotts. Rear row—Ralph Witmer, Floyd Klinger, Carl Sitlinger. Not shown: Harry W. Davis.



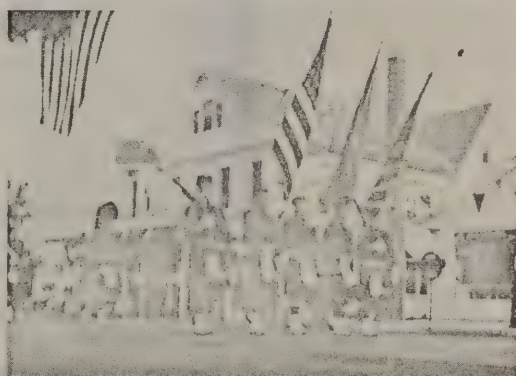
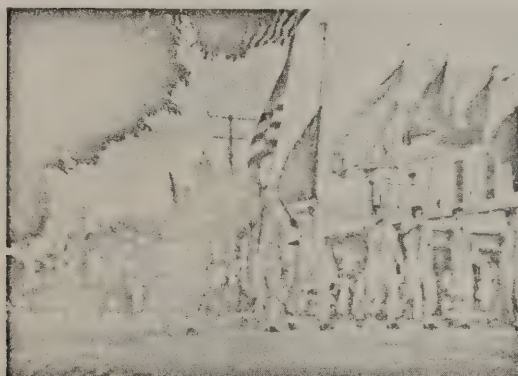
Decorations on Market Street



Guess who? None other than C. H. Willier and wife and grandchildren.



Antique Cars in Parade—Toni Twins in the Lead



Sisters of the Swish in Parade . . . Escorted by Melvin Swartz and Joe Keen.

PART I PROGRAM

SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1955



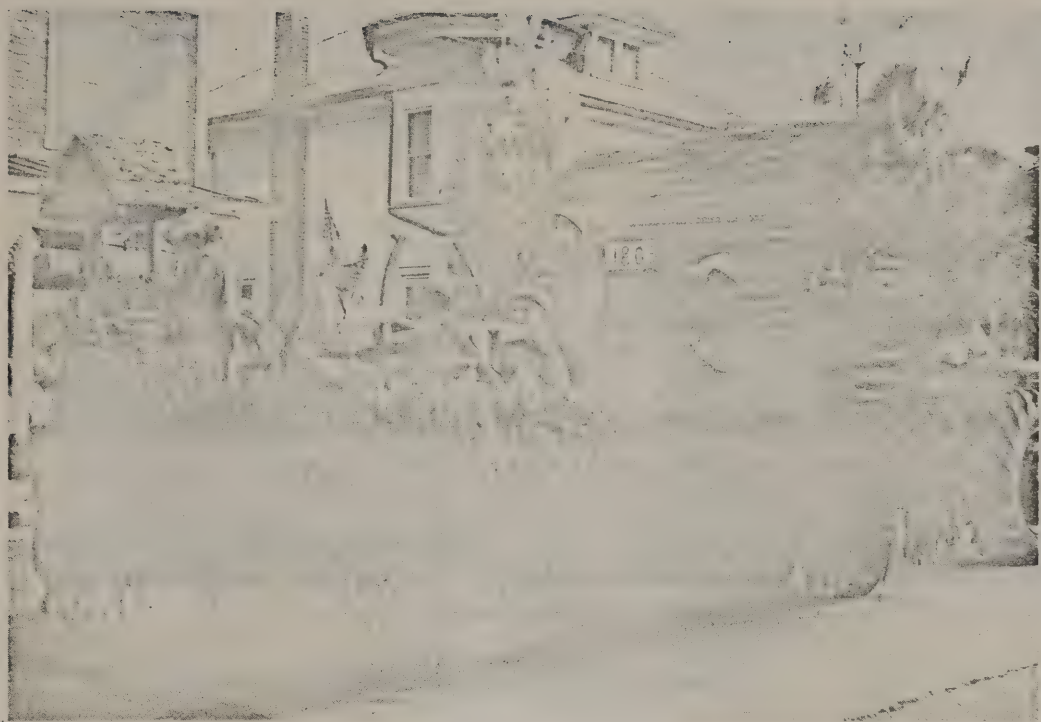
Hon. James H. Duff, U. S. Senator, speaker
Saturday evening, July 2, 1955.

- 1:45 p.m. • Al Shade and his Short Mountain Boys
- 1:55 p.m. Address of Welcome - President Gilbert Koppenhaver
- 2:00 p.m. Coronation of Sesquicentennial Queen
- 2:15 p.m. Al Shade and Boys
- 2:25 p.m. Tap Dance - - - Barbara and Marcella Willier
- 2:30 p.m. Pennsylvania State Police Dog Exhibition
- 3:00 p.m. Al Shade and Boys
- 6:00 p.m. Sesquicentennial Parade
- 8:30 p.m. Upper Dauphin High School Band
- 8:45 p.m. Introduction of Platform Guests - Pres. Koppenhaver
- 9:00 p.m. Address - - - Hon. James H. Duff, U. S. Senator
(Introduced by M. Harvey Taylor, State Senator)
- 9:30 p.m. The Gratz Pageant
- 11:00 p.m. Awarding of Parade Prizes

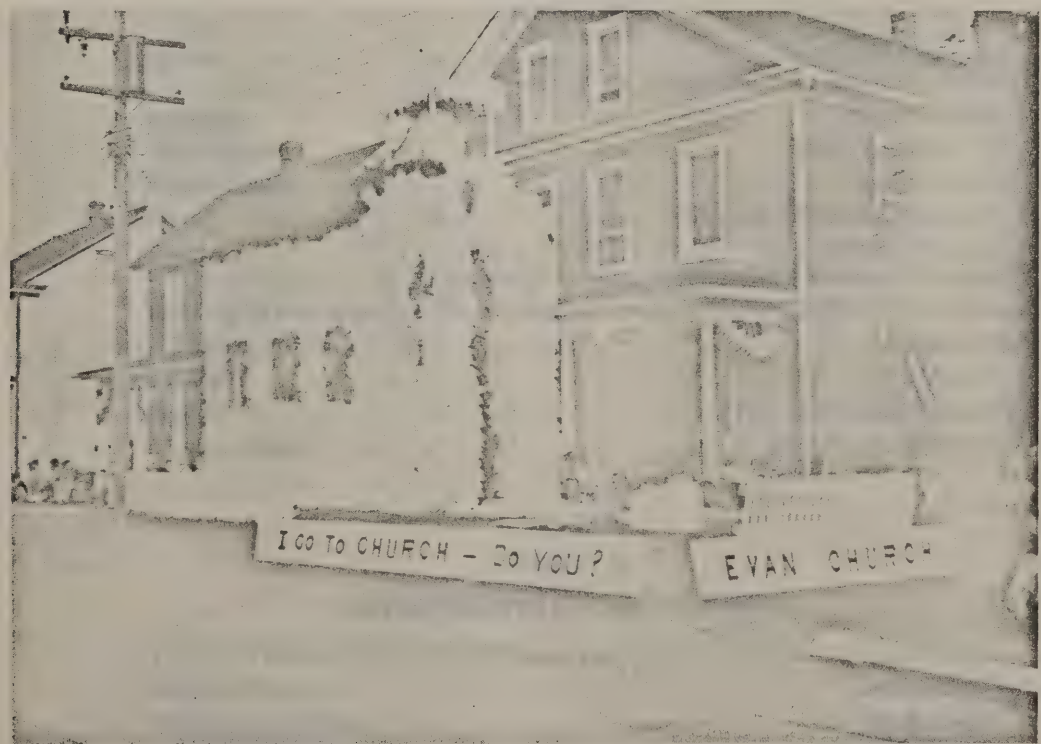
Sam
Smeltz
and



His
Covered
Wagon



Log Cabin Float in Parade



Evangelical-Congregational Church Float in Parade



Erdman Boy Scouts in Parade

SUNDAY, JULY 3, 1955

SUNDAY SCHOOL

2:00 P. M.

Leader	- - - - -	Rev. C. E. Morrison
	Pastor of the Evangelical Congregational Church	
Organist	- - - - -	Harry Zerfing
Choir Leader	- - - - -	Ralph Lehman, Jr.
Hymn Leader	- - - - -	Charles Botts
Hymn	- - - - -	"Onward Christian Soldiers"
Prayer	- - - - -	Rev. Luther Klinger
	United Evangelical Congregational Church of Ephrata	
Reading of the Lesson:	"The Prophet of Judah's Decline"—	Rev. W. Z. Artz
Hymn	- - - - -	"In the Garden"
Lesson	- - - - -	Dr. C. J. Umholtz
Hymn	- - - - -	"The Old Rugged Cross"
Closing Prayer	- - - - -	Rev. C. E. Morrison

CHURCH

3:00 P. M.

ORGAN RECITAL — Harry C. Zerfing

Toccata Finale—From "Toccata and Fugue" in D Minor	-	J. S. Bach
Extase (Reverie)	- - - - -	Louis Ganne
Toccata in D Minor	- - - - -	G. B. Nevin
Sweet Hour of Prayer	- - - - -	Van Thompson



Rev. Dr. J. Charles McKirachan, speaker at
Religious Services Sunday afternoon and
evening, July 3, 1955.

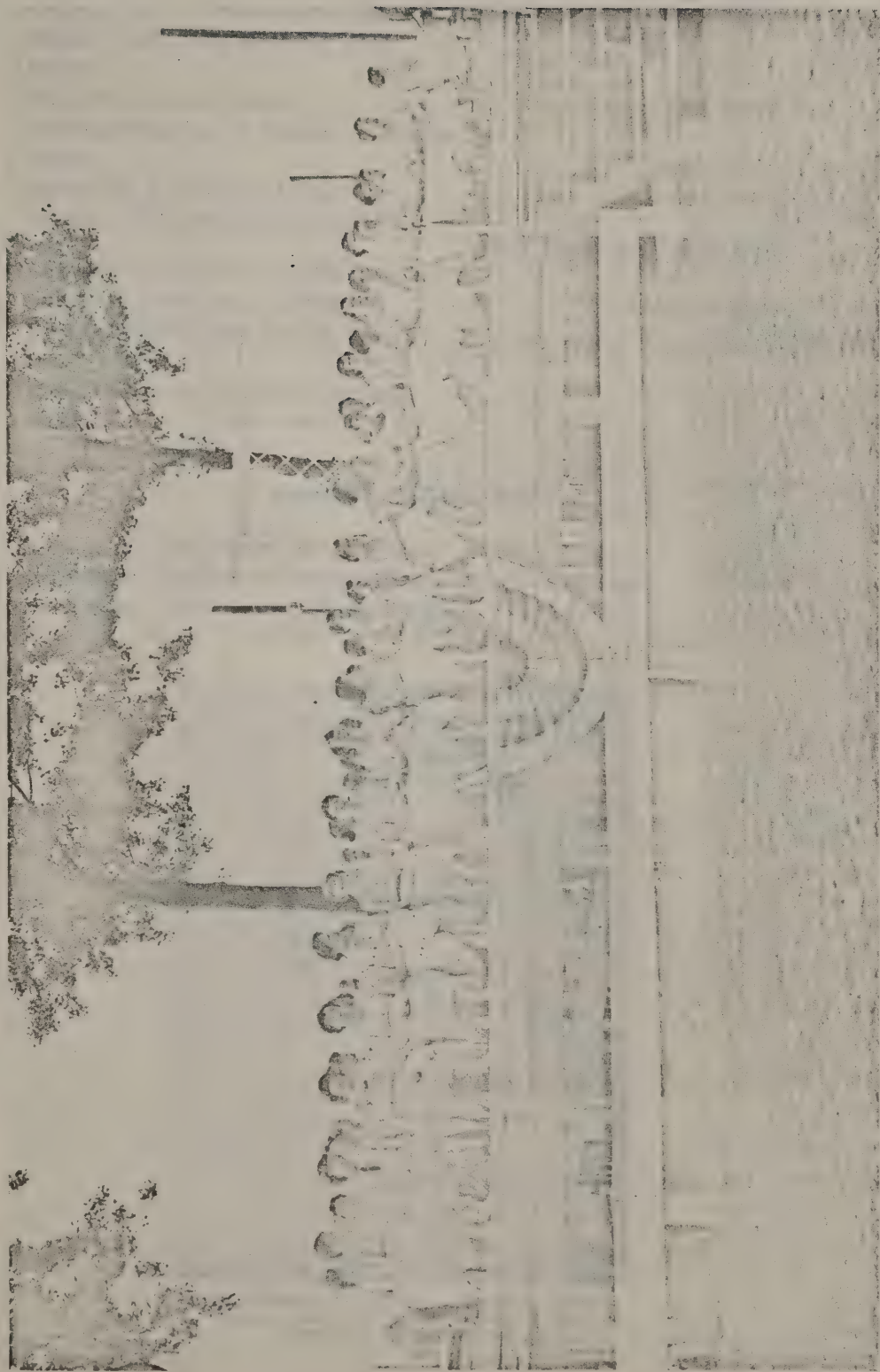
Leader - - - - - Rev. W. Z. Artz
Pastor of Lykens Valley Lutheran Parishes
Hymn: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
Scripture Reading: Leviticus 25:1-10
Prayer
Hymn: Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
Sermon: "Our Father's God . . . and Ours"
Rev. J. Charles McKirachan, Ph.D., Pine Street Presbyterian
Church, of Harrisburg, Pa.
Anthem: I Lift Mine Eyes to Thee
Offertory: Festal March - - - - - J. Baptiste Calkin
Hymn: What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Benediction
Silent Prayer (Harp Celeste Hymn)
Postlude: Military March - - - - - J. Goddard Baker

EVENING CHURCH SERVICES

7:15 P. M.

ORGAN RECITAL — Harry C. Zerfing

- 1.—Toccata in A Minor - - - - - Charles Demorest
- 2.—Serenade - - - - - Enrico Toselli
- 3.—Melodie - - - - - Tschaikowski
- 4.—Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross (Doane) - - - Van Thompson



Sunday Program Combined Choirs of the three local churches and Elizabethville Lutheran, Elizabethville Reformed churches, and St. John's, Berrysburg

Leader - - - - - Rev. Earl Marks
 Pastor of the Lykens Valley Evangelical and Reformed Church
 Hymn: Come, Thou Almighty King
 Prayer
 Solo: "The Lord's Prayer" - - - - - Ann Hepler
 Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 7:8-22
 Prayer
 Hymn: My Faith Looks Up to Thee
 Sermon: "The Miracle of America"
 Rev. J. Charles McKirachan, Ph. D.
 Anthem: "Battle Hymn of the Republic"
 Offertory: Offertory in E Flat - - - - - Lefebure We'ly
 Hymn: God Will Take Care of You
 Benediction
 Silent Prayer (Harp Celeste Hymn)
 Postlude

MONDAY, JULY 4, 1955

10:00 a.m. Old Timers' Baseball Game
 11:00 a.m. Brothers of the Brush Contest—Prize Awards
 1:00 p.m. Twin County Baseball Game
 Loyalton vs. Gratz—Gratz Ball Park



Judge Homer L. Kreider of Dauphin County Courts, speaker afternoon of July 4, ably introduced by Jack Gross.

CONCERT 3:00 p. m.

BY

THE ALLENTOWN BAND, INC.

(Organized in 1828)

ALBERTUS L. MEYERS, CONDUCTOR

PART ONE

- | | | |
|--|---------|---------|
| 1.—Concert March: "Litely and Politely" | - - - - | WinGar |
| 2.—Overture "Raymond" (Request) | - - - - | Thomas |
| 3.—Cornet Solo "Facilita" (Stanley Moyer, Soloist) | - - | Hartman |
| 4.—United Nations Rhapsody | - - - - | Bennett |
| 5.—Speaker: The Honorable Judge Homer L. Kreider | | |
| 6.—Fandango | - - - - | Perkins |
| 7.—Mardi Gras from "Mississippi Suite" | - - - - | Grofe |

PART TWO

- | | | |
|---|---------|-----------|
| 1.—March: "The Purple Pageantry" | - - - - | King |
| 2.—Prairie Lament | - - - - | Waters |
| 3.—Flute Solo: "Italian Caprice" (Berthold Wavrek, Soloist) | - | Wetzger |
| 4.—(a) "Cumana" | - - - - | Bennett |
| (b) Jazz Rhumba | - - - - | Palange |
| 5.—Ballet Parisien | - - - - | Offenbach |

CONCERT 8:00 P. M.

BY

THE ALLENTOWN BAND, INC.

PART ONE

- | | | |
|--|---------|-------------|
| 1.—Concert March: "The World Is Waiting for the Sunrise" | - | Alford |
| 2.—Bacchanale from "Samson and Delila" | - - - | Saint-Saens |
| 3.—Trombone Solo "Love's Enchantment" (Ezra Wenner, Soloist) | - | Pryor |
| 4.—Czardas | - - - - | Monti |
| 5.—Overture "William Tell" (Request) | - - - - | Rossini |

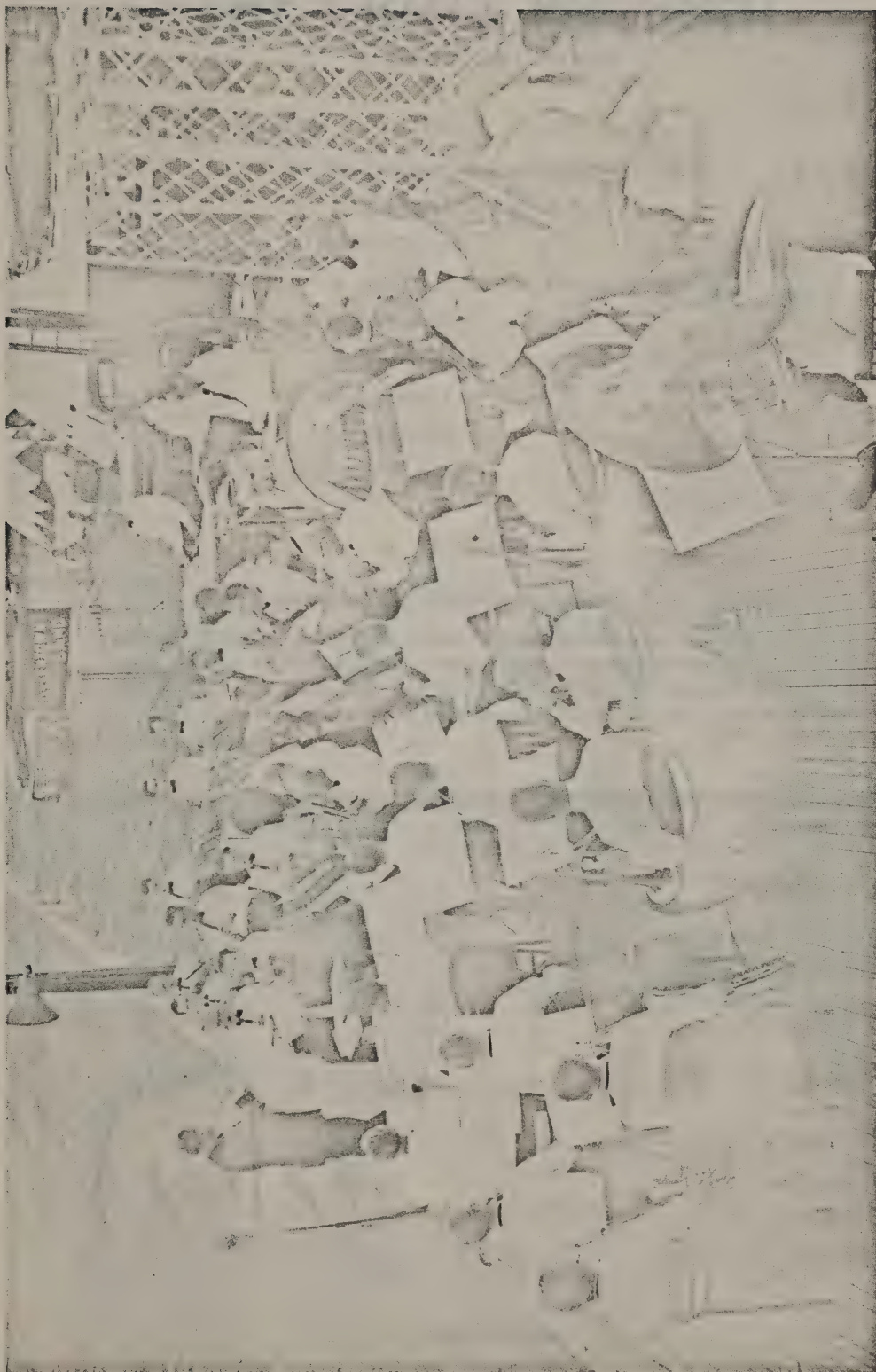
PART TWO

- | | | |
|--|---------|--------------|
| 1.—Finale from Symphony in F | - - - - | Tschaikovsky |
| 2.—Saxophone Solo "Goldi" (Thomas Heinze, Soloist) | - - | Lasilli |
| 3.—(a) Rakes of Mallow | | |
| (b) The Irish Washerwoman | - - - - | Anderson |
| 4.—Vincent Youman Fantasy | - - - - | Yoder |

PART THREE

- | | | |
|---|---------|-------------|
| 1.—March: "Glory of the Yankee Navy" | - - - - | Sousa |
| 2.—Overture: "Ruy Blas" | - - - - | Mendelssohn |
| 3.—Tuba Solo: "The Storm King" (Homer Schlenker, Soloist) | - | Ringleben |
| 4.—Funiculi Funicula | - - - - | Denza-Lang |
| 5.—Dance of the Tumblers | - - - - | Korsacov |
| The Gratz Pageant | | |
| Drawing for Prizes | | |

(FINIS)



Allentown Band July 4, 1955

THE GRATZ PAGEANT

A TRIBUTE TO GLORY

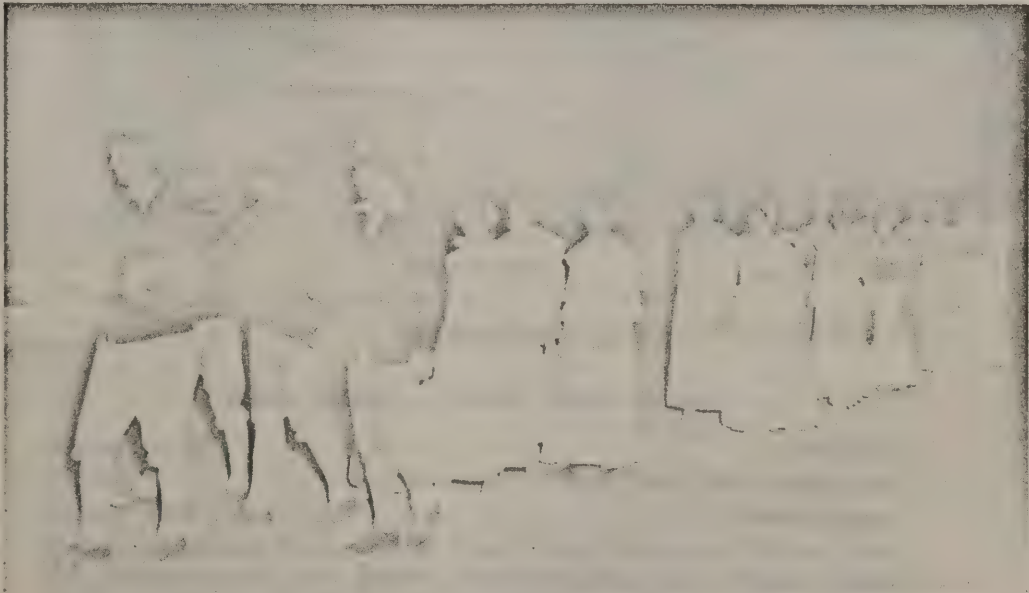
Episodes:

1. The Landing of the Pilgrims
2. Spirit of Independence
3. Indian Council
4. Settlers and the Founding of Gratz
5. Civil War Days
6. Ye Gratz Fair and Nickelodeon
7. World War I
8. Iwo Jima
9. Grand Finale

EPISODE I

The Landing of the Pilgrims — Leader: Leah Rebuck

Arlene Sitlinger, Evelyn Sitlinger, Margaret Sitlinger, Martha Kissinger, Betty Martz, Joyce Laudenslager, Eleanor Kessler, Linda Rebuck, Shirley Klinger, Lizzie Hoffman, Pauline Welker, Patricia Hepner, Mrs. Clyde Snyder, Clair Koppenhaver, Clyde Snyder, Clair Leitzel, Carolyn Straub, Leah Rebuck.



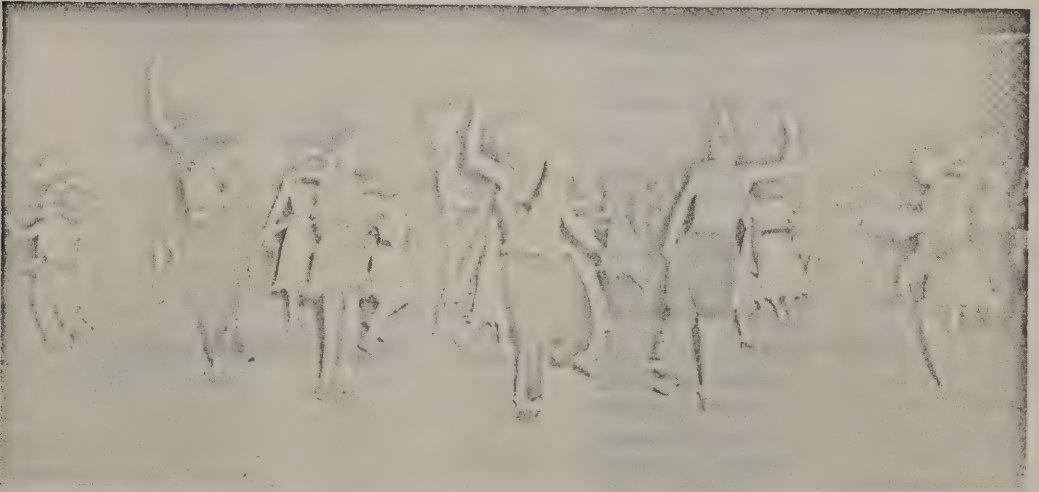
Pageant Scene

EPISODE II

Spirit of Independence — Leader: Melvin Schwartz

Spirit of '76

Drummer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Kenneth Lebo
Flag Bearer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	John Leitzel (Sat.) Jack Shade (Mon.)
Flute	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Blair Wiest
Patrick Henry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Marlin Reed, Jr.
Thomas Jefferson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	James A. Reed
John Hancock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Carl Williard
Benjamin Franklin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Allen Shiro
John Adams	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Thomas Hepler
Robert Morris	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Bruce Bucher
Samuel Adams	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Carson Hepler
Robert Paine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Kermit Klinger
Benjamin Harrison	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Thomas Snyder
George Walton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Roger Laudenslager
Richard Penn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Thomas Snyder



Pageant Scene

EPISODE III

Indian Council — Leader: Ernest Klinger

Richard Penn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Jack Reed
Indians	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Boy Scouts of America, Troop 152, Erdman, Pa.
Indian Chief	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ernest Klinger
Indians: Anthony King, Donald King, Dennis Rothermel, Michael Gonder, James Schadle, Roy Schadle, Ronald Schadle, Glen Schade, Lester Buffington, Dennis Buffington, Donald Buffington, Larry Harner, Daniel										

Harner, Ronald Matter, Thomas Klinger, Larry Tice, Jackie Kessler, Terry Stiely, Terry Laudenslager, Robert Laudenslager, Larry Wiest, Glenn Klinger, Dennis Eckler, Randy Bowman, Elwood Weaver, William Morehart.

Indian Girls — Leader: Mrs. Edna Hoffman; Ruth Snyder, Mary Snyder, Margaret Shroyer, Mary Wiest, Jean Daniel, Betty Welker, Helen Romberger, Deanna Weaver, Barbara Morehart, Barbara Kessler, Nancy Kessler, Sandra Laudenslager, Mary Straub.

EPISODE IV

Settlers and the Founding of Gratz — Leaders: Hannah Clark - Mae Boger

Simon Gratz	- - - - -	Melvin Herb
Mrs. Simon Gratz	- - - - -	Mrs. Helen Horn
Children	- - - - -	Cynthia Horn Tanya Herb

Ludwig Schoffstall family	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Keiter Allen Keiter Judith Keiter Dean Keiter
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Mathias Bellow family	Mr. & Mrs. Harry Unger Constance Unger Charles Kissinger, Jr. Thomas Hoffman
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Lewis Faust family	Mrs. Avis Gottschall Jack Reed Terry Daniels Robert Stine Orville Daniels, Jr. Gary Roadcap Tim Williard
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Adonijah Mathias family	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Maurer Douglas Dockey Roddy Leitzel James Hepler Thomas Sitlinger Walter Shade
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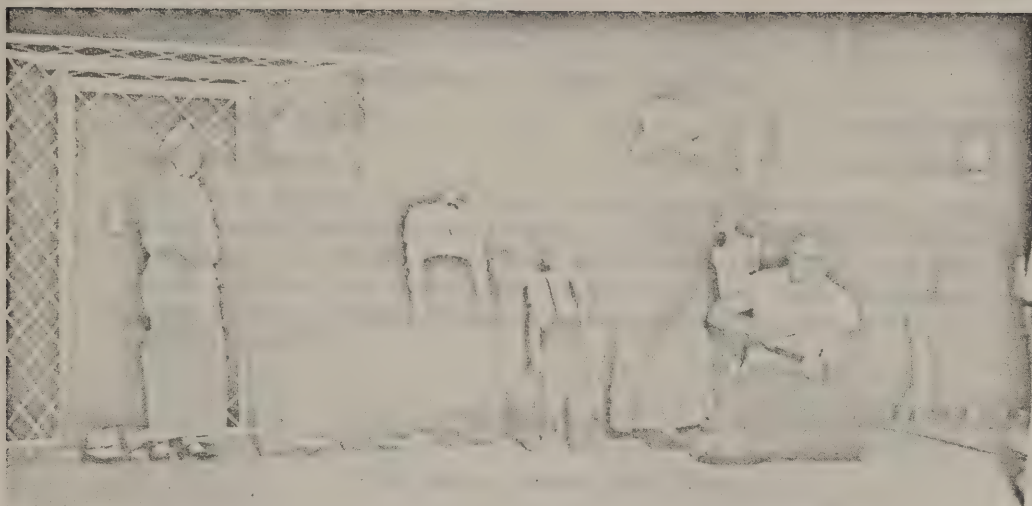
Leonard Reedy—Gunsmith	Gerald Wiest
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Rev. & Mrs. Schindel	Mr. & Mrs. Norwood Henninger
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Coal Miners	Henry Laudenslager Haven Laudenslager Richard Hartman
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Postrider	Marlin Wiest
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Covered Wagon—Driver	Roy Smeltz Lester Smeltz Cletus Fetter Lee Shadle Robert Klinger
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Pageant Scene

EPISODE V

Civil War — Leader: Mrs. Elsie Felsburg

Abraham Lincoln	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Russell Smeltz
Confederate Officer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Peter Stine
Confederate Soldier	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Darvin Daniels
Union Officer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Earle Jury
Union Soldier	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Guy Miller
Slave Master	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Ammon Oxenrider
Slave	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Gerald Wiest

Civil War Dames — Pauline Adams, Luma Rothermel, Marie Stine, Eva Daniels, Mary Wiest, Carolyn Witmer, Bonita Schminky, Elsie Felsburg, Anna Sitlinger.

EPISODE VI

Ye Gratz Fair & Nickelodeon — Leader: Sula Witmer

Mrs. Robert Buffington, Mr. & Mrs. John Miller, Mr. & Mrs. Cyril Shade, Susan Jane Shade, Mr. & Mrs. Jay Brosius, Emma Clark, Mrs. Guy Leitzel, Brenda Leitzel, Edna Hess, Evelyn Hepler, Ruth R. Stiely, Curtis Updegrave, Mrs. Thomas Hartman, Alma Stroup, Randy Stroup, Mrs. Samuel Long, Clarence Bingaman, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Deppen, Mrs. Charles Shade, Sandra Shade, Blanche Hepler, Mina Coleman, Barbara Hepler, Lynn Hepler, Mrs. Raymond Buffington, Mae Klinger, Mary Hepler, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Coleman, Thomas Coleman, Dennis Matter, Robert Miller, Mrs. Mark Kessler, Violet Kessler, Debra Sue Kessler.

EPISODE VII

World War I — Leader: Mae Boger

World War I Soldier - - - - - Joseph Keen
Goddess of Peace - - - - - Ann Hepler
Poppies: In Flanders Field — Mary Louise Maurer, Joy Schminky, Constance Leitzel, Rosalie Rebuck, Bonita Ann Paul, Darlene Hopple, Gloria Leitzel, Arabelle Hopple, Ruth Ann Leitzel, Penny Lee Miller, Dora Mae Spotts, Cynthia Horn, Karen Hepler, Karen Oxenrider, Marie Romberger, Joanne Hartman, Denise Hepner, Clara Jean Williard, Linda Schoffstall, Paulette Davis.

EPISODE VIII

Iwo Jima — Leader: Park Wiest

World War II Soldiers: Roy Neagley, Russell Matter, Lamar Stiely, Park Wiest, Harold Herb.

EPISODE IX

Grand Finale

Statue of Liberty - - - - - Ann Hepler

Procession of Flags — Leader: Hannah Welker

Lucille Shade, Alma Wiest, Joyce Moyer, Mary Shiro, Edna Kissinger, Nancy Hoffman, Shirléy Maurer, Robert Stine, Lynn Wiest, John Schminky, Mark Kessler, Curtis Hepler, Eugene Hepner, Clair Williard, Colin Hopple, Bill Koppenhaver, Dale Zerfing, Paul Adams, Lehr Rothermel, Robert Sitlinger, Carl Roadcap, Virginia Kessler, Wanda Williard, Elaine Brosius, Alice Williard, Shirley Sultzbaugh, Dianne Limpo, Beverly Limpo, Mrs. Bruce Schwalm.

Sesqui-Centennial Beauty Queen Float

Episodes Reviewed in order they appeared in Pageant

God Bless America - - - - - Cast

Star Spangled Banner

Sky Rockets



We acknowledge the help of the following people for the work they did to make the pageant possible.

Our thanks to:

John Goodman	- - - -	Pageant Director
Mae E. Boger	- - - -	Co-Director
Blanche Hepler	- - - -	Co-Chairman
Sandra Endres	- - - -	Costume Mistress
William Hummell	- - - -	Lighting Director

Lighting Crew: Dale Lutz, Kenneth Snyder, John Brommer, Randy Schaeffer, Thomas Hummell, Alvin Schaeffer, Lewis Fisher.

Peter Carpenter — Band Director, Upper Dauphin Joint School Band

Narrators: Dorothy Kline, Esther Goodman, Mae Bogar, Rev. Robert Benner, Charles Hikes.

Recording equipment was provided through the courtesy of Mary I. Sherk, Pine Grove, Pa.



John Goodman
Director of the Pageant



Mae Boger
Assistant Director

OLD TIMERS BASEBALL GAME

Chairman: John Williard

Old Timers: John Williard, John Harris, Albert Willier, George Reed, Daniel Miller, Warren Buffington, Blair Keiffer, Jay Brosius, Robert Rothermel, Walter Umholtz, Clayton Willier, Robert Coleman, Charles Muth, Guy Miller, Hal Leitzel, Joseph Schminky, Ralph Troxell.

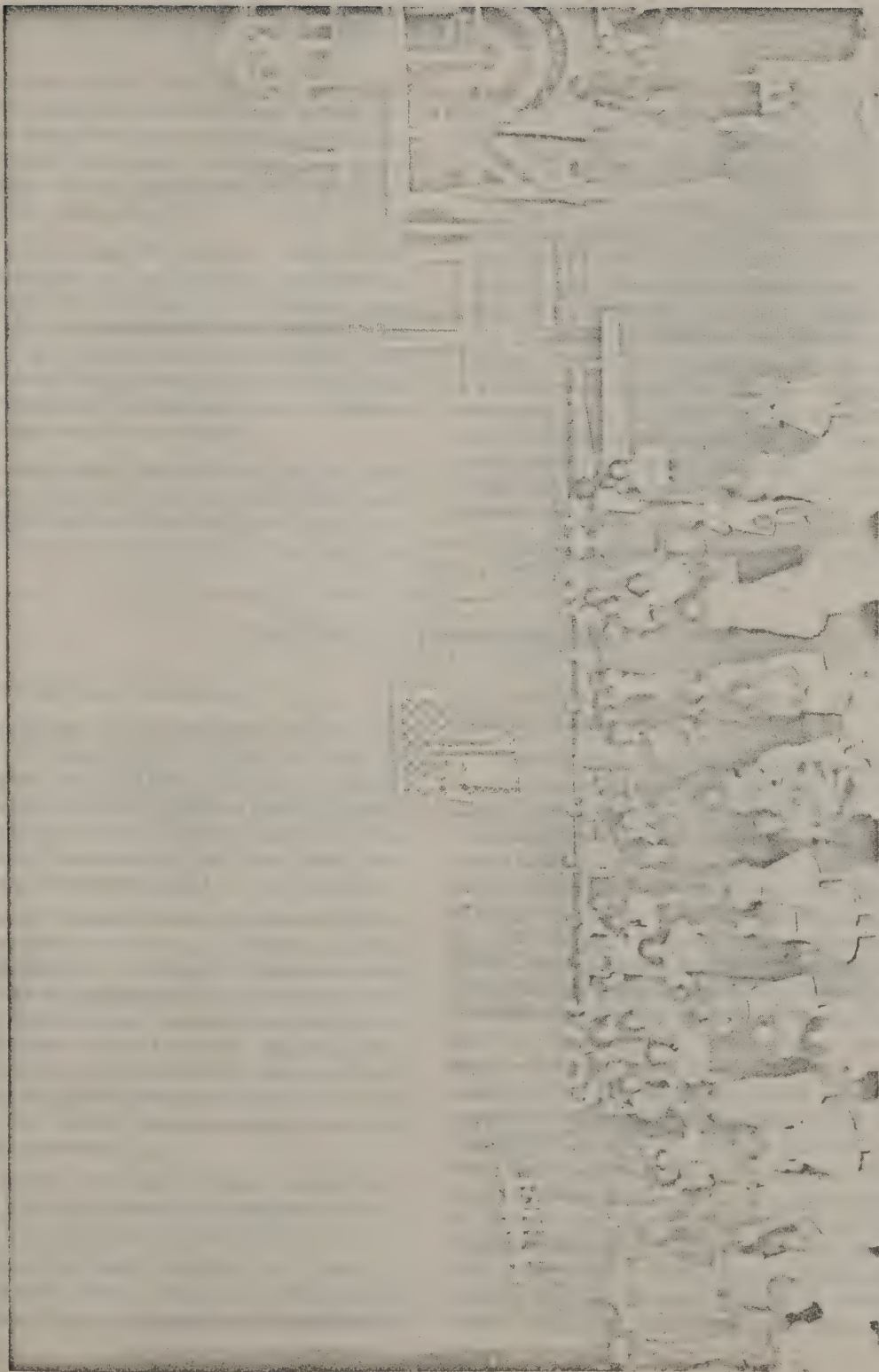
Regular Team: Jack Reed, Ronald Strayer, James Daniels, Glen Hepler, Robert Hopple, Cyril Shade, Roy Straub, Derl Paul, Harry Hepler, Dennis Ney.

Score: Old Timers 13

Regulars 7

Umpires: Walter Daniels, Melvin Stroup, Derl Rebuck, Dewey Schminky.

—Mae E. Boger



Pageant Scene

Address Of Welcome

Gilbert Koppenhaver

It is my happy privilege and my great honor to welcome each and every one of you to this great celebration which we shall observe these three days in recognition of the founding of our community One Hundred and Fifty years ago.

We who are the present residents of Gratz extend to you who have been former residents the glad hand of fellowship, with the full assurance that your return visit will be both enjoyable and profitable. We hope that these several days spent among old friends and the scenes of your childhood will linger long in your memory.

To you others, not claiming Gratz as part of your past, but who are from other communities, near and far, we bid a hearty welcome. We are happy that you have come to

enjoy our Sesquicentennial with us. We hope that your visit with us will be a joyous one, and that your participation in the program will be long remembered.

Our founding fathers and their sons and grandsons, together with their womenfolk, labored hard and well. In this, our celebration, we pay them fitting honor, and give them due recognition for their valiant efforts in the past. May we, the present generation of sons and daughters, be endowed with the wisdom and the courage which are necessary for us to follow in their footsteps. May we dedicate ourselves to the task of being worthy successors to Simon Gratz and those who have labored since. With God's help we can do it.

Again, I bid you all a hearty welcome.

The Chief Of Police's Message

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I consider myself fortunate to have the honor of being Chief of Police of Gratz in this year of our 150th birthday. I share your pride in the one hundred and fifty years of progress and feel humbly grateful for the wonderful cooperation that has made possible the Sesquicentennial of our founding.

The enthusiasm shown by scores of citizens working together to achieve a three-day celebration is enough to make any one proud to be a resident of this community. To all the men and women, boys and girls, who helped, I wish to extend my congratulations for a job excellently done, and my thanks for your energetic efforts that have made the Gratz Sesquicentennial an outstanding success.

A hearty welcome to those former residents who have helped and returned to celebrate the birthday of Old Gratz!

From the most venerable old timer to the youngest baby, I hope you all have had the time of your lives, and look forward with

me to a future for our town that will outshine the past, radiant as that may be.

My inspiration and the experience I had on the Saturday, the opening date, and the day of the parade will be a long time in my remembrance. I had deputized two men from Reading to help me in my work, and we started to park the cars when the D hour arrived for people to get a desirable spot to see the parade. We filled the Community Recreational Center, the Ball Park, and the Schminky parking lot, and after the Fair Ground was filled to capacity, the farmers of Gratz opened their fields. Lloyd Hartman's field was soon filled with cars that came late, on Routes 25 and 22036. On the Specktown Road Clair Romberger's field was soon filled to capacity. By the time the parade started, the roads were blocked with cars, to three widths for nearly the length of town by people who had come to see the Sesqui Spectacular coming on. The grass plot, sidewalks, front grass plots and porches and lawns were filled with spectators. That was the scenery all the way

through town from the Fair Grounds to the Airport. It was an event long to be remembered. It was reported that in Joe and Elma Hartman's front yard there were close to 100 people on chairs, blankets, and on the grass under the shade tree. She had given invitations, for this was a wonderful place to see the parade. You could see over the heads of the people at the roadside, and get a view going and coming. They also provided the visitors with a treat for the hour of waiting, and by doing so they had the number counted that were there.

I am not exaggerating that there were more than 20,000 people, from as far as Sunbury, Pottsville, Harrisburg, and Old Timers from as far as Florida and California to see

this opening parade. Such a sight has never before been seen in the Beautiful Lykens Valley.

The citizens of town and community helped to get the cars moving and cleared the highways in good time, with only one little scratched fender and without a mishap. To my mind, this was a great achievement.

1681208

In my three and a half years as Chief of Police, I thank the people of Gratz, and community, for the support and appreciation given me in this office.

With sincere appreciation,
Carl Sitlinger

The Gratz Sesquicentennial Queen

The news was out! There was going to be a queen for the Gratz Sesquicentennial Celebration. My girl friends were going to try, so why couldn't I? After all what did I have to lose? Nothing but my time to get the votes, the one having the highest number of votes was counted the winner.

The contest opened April 13 and ended June 24 midnight. Imagine my surprise when they told me that I, having received the highest number of votes, would reign as queen for the three day celebration!

The next week was nothing but hustle and bustle of getting the float ready and the fitting of our gowns for the coronation and parade. I, along with my attendants, had the great honor of selecting our gowns at the Mary Sachs shop in Harrisburg. That same evening my attendants and I were informed that we were to appear on T.V., Channel 55, at the State Theater in Harrisburg for an interview. This was quite an interesting and new experience for all of us.

Saturday, July 2, was the day. After being crowned with a beautiful tiara, set in rhinestones and pearls, by our Sesquicentennial president, Gilbert Koppenhaver, my attendants and I were presented with

beautiful nosegays and headbands with the colors matching our gowns which were presented to us by our queen committee president, Mrs. Fae Stroup. I had another big surprise while the parade was forming. The queen committee president presented me with a beautiful rhinestone necklace and earrings set.

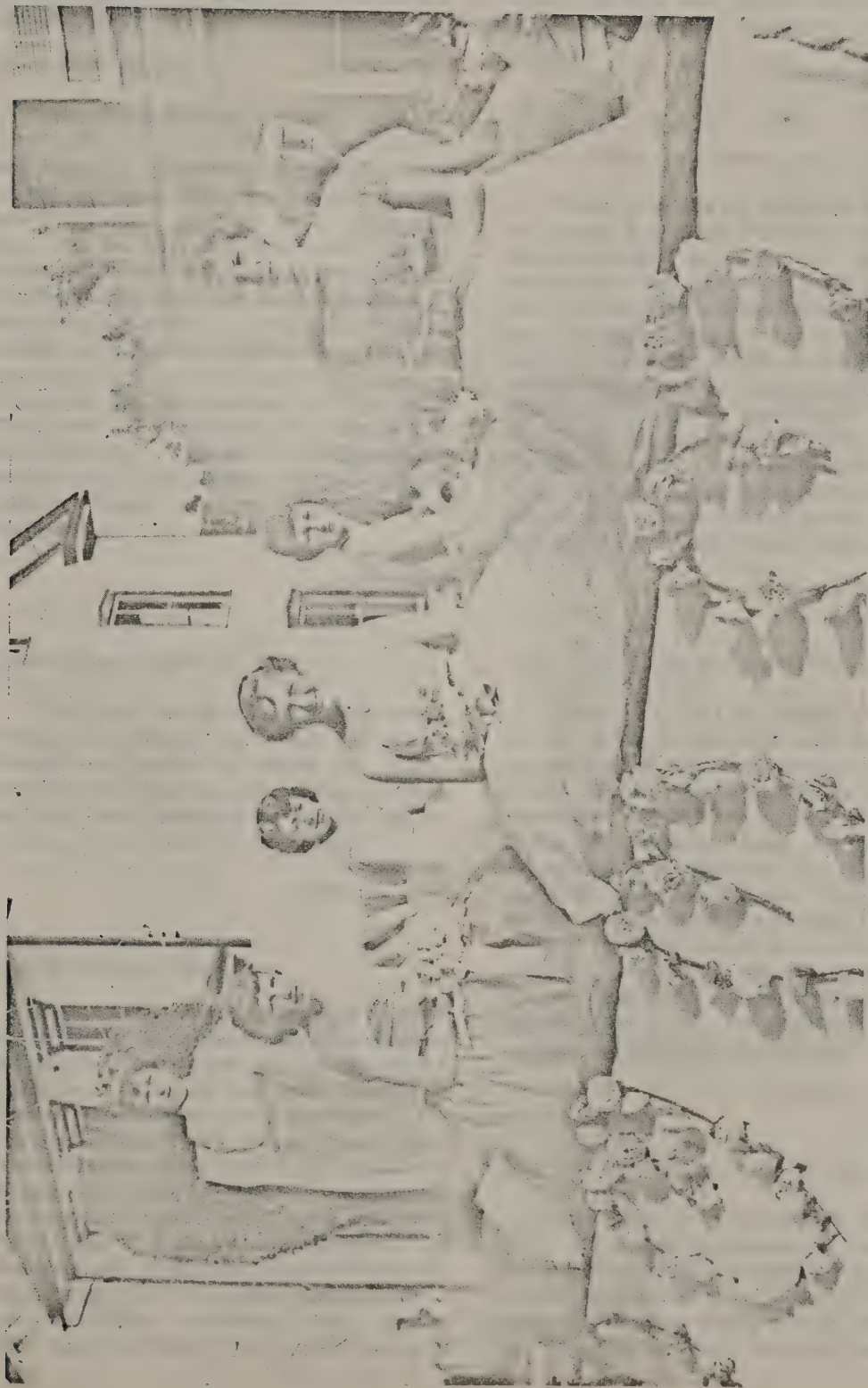
My attendants, Mary Rebuck, Janice Buffington, Harriet Umholtz, Drusilla Reed, Sharon Felsburg, and Becci Stine and I had the honor of riding on a float which was one of the outstanding pieces of art in the parade.

There were three more girls, Violet Kessler, Leah Paul and Jean Crabb in the contest who were presented with beautiful corsages and rhinestone bracelets as consolation prizes.

These were the highlights of the Sesquicentennial for me, but by far not the end of this wonderful, exciting experience.

So I now want to thank each and every one of you fine people who made it possible for me to reign over the Gratz Sesquicentennial in 1955. I'm sure that I shall never have this thrill again as long as I live.

—Phyllis H. Cook



The Queen and her Court in Parade. Left to right—Phyllis Cook (the Queen), Mary Rebeck, Janice Buffington, Drucilla Reed, Harriet Umholtz, Becci Stine, Sharon Felsburg

Thus speaks the Queen. Now hear her attendants:

Becci Stine says:

"The Sesquicentennial made the fifteenth summer of my life the most exciting and eventful. There was something going on all the time. Displays for the women, bearded contest for the men, a baseball game for the boys and men, queen contest for the girls, and the pageant for everyone. The Sunday Service was most inspiring. It was a change from the noisy but wonderful parade on Saturday evening, and a chance to worship God out in the open where everyone could see the wonders of His work. There was the excitement of being on T.V. and spending a whole day in Harrisburg looking for a gown, which we were allowed to keep. Thanks to all the people who made this possible."

—Becci Stine

Drusilla Reed adds:

"I enjoyed the three days very much. I thank the people who helped me in this contest, and especially thank the Sesqui committee for the beautiful dress and flowers that were presented to me for the occasion. I say thanks seven times."

—Drusilla Reed

Sharon Felsburg continues:

"I wish to thank all the people who made it possible for me to be in the Gratz Sesquicentennial Queen's Court by voting for me. I also wish to thank the Gratz Sesquicentennial Committees for purchasing the gown and tiara, which will be a symbol of the wonderful time I had at the Centennial. It was an experience which I am sure all the people of Gratz, including myself, will never forget. I am sure it was worth all the time and money that was put into the preparation for the Sesquicentennial. I our beautifully decorated float passed wish again to thank the Committee for a

wonderful time and I hope they will make it an annual affair."

—Sharon Felsburg

Janice Buffington follows suit:

"I wish to extend my thanks to the people who made it possible for me to be on the Sesquicentennial Queen's Court. It was an experience in my life which I will never forget. I just wish all the girls would have had the opportunity to run for queen. I wish to extend my thanks to the Sesquicentennial Committee for purchasing my gown, which will always be a reminder to me of the Gratz Sesquicentennial. I'm sure all the people of Gratz will agree with me when I say that the Gratz Sesquicentennial was one of the biggest events Gratz has ever had, and I hope there will be many more."

—Janice Buffington

This from runner-up Mary Rebuck:

"I wish to extend my thanks and appreciation to the people who made it possible for me to be on the Sesquicentennial Queen's Court. As the runner-up, I think it was an experience which I will never forget. Furthermore, I wish to thank the Gratz Sesquicentennial Committees for purchasing my gown and tiara for me. They showed me a wonderful time. Although there was a lot of time and money spent in the preparation, I am sure it was all worth while. I hope other girls will have the same opportunity as I did. Once again I wish to express my heartiest appreciation."

—Mary L. Rebuck

And Harriet Umholtz loved it, too:

"The Gratz Sesquicentennial helped to make my sixteenth summer a memorable one. Although the preparation leading up to the great event was a thrill in itself, my greatest thrill was taking part in the parade, the largest one Gratz has ever seen. As

through the crowds it seemed to me as though everyone in the state must be present. I felt regal in my new gown, and the other girls' faces seemed to register the same delight and happiness I knew was on mine. It was truly a wonderful experience, and one I shall remember. Thanks a mil-

lion to the people who made it possible, and the committee for what they gave me."

—Harriet E. Umholtz

And may the teacher of all of you add: You all passed with an A plus.

—L.M.B.

Brothers Of The Brush

Many of the early immigrants that came to America allowed their beards to grow full, whether it was the pattern set by the early ministers or a matter of convenience we do not know. We do know beards were the fad of the period.

The men folks of the town formed the "Brothers of the Brush" Organization. Rules and regulations were set up. All men were required to wear a beard of some sort during the celebration. However, if a male objected to wearing a beard he was allowed to purchase a "Shaving Permit" for \$2.00. The yellow badge he received had to be displayed at all times; if at any time the male appeared without the badge a deputy made an arrest. A fine of fifty cents was levied or the Judge of the Court decreed confinement in the stockade.

Men who allowed their beards to grow were assessed fifty cents for their badge which showed they were members of the "Brothers of the Brush".

Salesmen who came to town to do business were required to purchase a Peddlers' Permit for \$1.00.

Anyone who refused to follow the regulations was fined; if he refused to pay the fine he was placed in the stockade for one hour.

The stockade was in the center of the town on the plaza. Here The Brothers of the Brush and the Cosmetic violators were brought before the Court every Monday night for trial. Judges of the Court were John Reed, Derl Rebeck and Darvin Daniels. The stockade was well guarded by Clair Koppenhaver, who was armed with a double-barreled shotgun.

The beard-growing contest was climaxed Monday, July 4, 1956, with a public judging before throngs of people.

The judges for the contest were Marlan O. Walter of Millersburg, Clair Shade of Valley View, and Luther Klinger of Erdman.

After painstakingly examining the hirsute adornments on the faces of the entrants, the august and honorable judges came up with the following awards:

1. Warren Buffington—Five Dollars
2. Clayton H. Willier—Pink Shirt
3. Melvin Swartz—Blue Shirt
4. Carl Sitlinger—Tie
5. Russell Smeltz— $\frac{1}{2}$ gal. ice cream
6. Marlin Heim— $\frac{1}{2}$ gal. ice cream
7. Cyril Shade— $\frac{1}{2}$ gal. ice cream
8. Charles Coleman— $\frac{1}{2}$ gal. ice cream
9. Earl Jury— $\frac{1}{2}$ gal. ice cream

The five-dollar award and the ice cream awards were the gift of Maurer's Dairy.

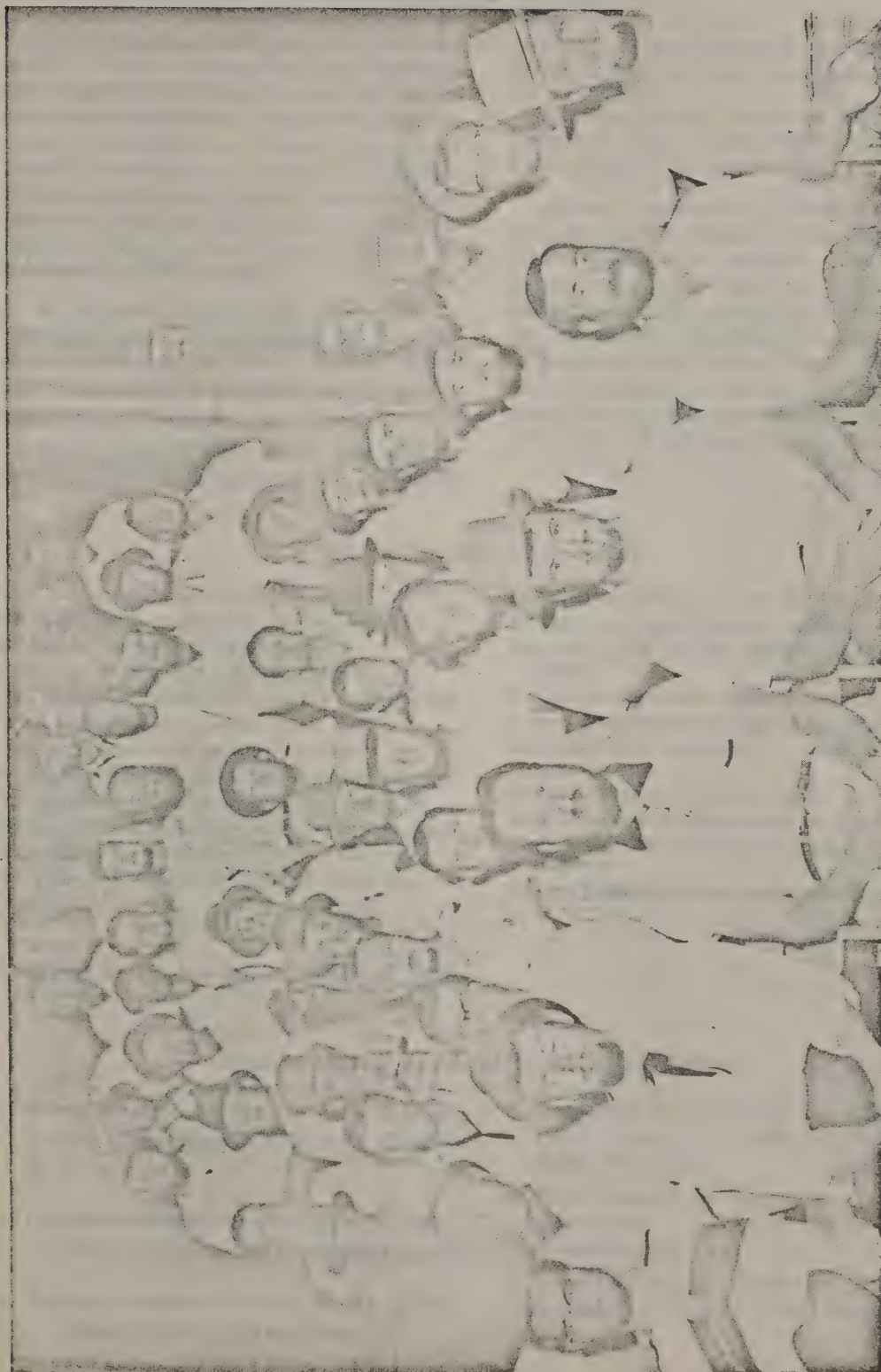
The shirts were donated by Stark's and the Capitol Pants Company; and the tie by David's, all of Harrisburg.

The report that the judges' wives made them delouse themselves before they permitted them to come into their homes after the judging is slanderous and without any foundation.

—Mel Stroup

—Mae E. Boger

—Lloyd M. Bellis



Some Brothers of the Brush. Front row (left to right)—Marlin Reed, Jr., Richard Deppen, Ray Leitzel, Carl Daniels, Clarence Welker, Melvin Stroup. Second row—Clayton Sitlinger, Tom Snyder, Harold Spotts, Rufus Kebaugh, Earl Starr, Robert Kissinger. Third row—Charles Ketter, Charles Harman, Harry Davis, Clair Koppenhaver, Jr., Russell Smeltz, Bill Wolle, Fred Shade. Fourth row—Park Wiest, Jimmy Wiest, Clarence Bingaman, Marlin Umholtz, Carl Sitlinger, Melvin Swartz, James Reed. Fifth row—Kenneth Lebo, Blair Wiest, Leo Rogers, John Williard, Peter Stine, Harry Shiro. Sixth row—Charles Shade, John Miller, Marlin Shade, Jr., Warren Bullington, Clair Romberger, Gilbert Koppenhaver, Darwin Daniels. Seventh row—Jack Reed, Gerald Wiest, Bill Shade, Guy Miller, Jay Brosius. Eighth row—Russell Hoffman, Mark Kebaugh, Clayton Willier, Russell Matter, Robert Coleman.

Cosmetics And Sunbonnets

Since the use of cosmetics was not commonly practiced among the early settlers the women in our town banned the use of artificial beautification. Those who did not enter into the spirit of pioneer days could protect themselves by buying a Cosmetic Permit for fifty cents, which had to be carried at all times on their person. This rule applied to any female between the ages of fourteen and ninety-nine.

A Cosmetic Deputy had the right to challenge any person appearing on the streets with lipstick. If a "Permit" could not be produced, a summons to appear at the Court was issued.

Every Monday night Court was held on the Plaza, and those arrested were subjected

to a fine. If they refused to pay the fine the Judge decreed one hour in the stockade.

Perhaps you will recognize some of the girls who forgot their Permits and served their sentence in the stockade.

Women appeared at gatherings and on the streets in costumes typical of the days when Gratz was settled. Many wore gowns, capes, and hats that were handed down through the generations. Others wore the sunbonnets, shlop-heet, bobadeckle types of headgear when on the street. The wearing of old-fashioned clothes was purely optional for all those who wished to recapture and enjoy the full spirit of the anniversary.

—Mae E. Boger

Sesquicentennial Of Gratz

This Sesquicentennial we commemorate,
Of the founding of Gratz, in our beloved state.
In Lykens Valley with its rolling land,
Inhabited by people of a German blend.
The people who settled here were a sturdy breed,
Were self-sufficient to supply their need,
Except for their faith and trust in Him,
Through His infinite love watched over everything.
Her loyalty to God and country was great,
Having freedom from fear and love for her state.
Exemplified by many that answered the call,
To make our democracy, through wars large or small.
When God inspired our fathers to build such a town,
They dug in like beavers, on hardships they'd frown,

Provided recreation for those that could play,
Baseball and picnics on each holiday.
They were wise in their planning and looked far ahead,
For future generations, when they would be dead,
A Borough was chartered, they adopted some rules,
For an orderly community, with Churches and Schools.
Generations have come, generations have gone,
Since Gratz was founded, which we call our home,
Their accomplishments and memories, they to us dedicate
For this Sesquicentennial, which we now celebrate.

—H. D. Schminky

Donors and Winners of Grandstand Prizes

1. Breakfast Set—Donated by John J. Kelly & Son, Millersburg . . . Won by Charles M. Wise, Gratz.
2. Car-Sac—Donated by Fae Stroup, Gratz . . . Won by Eleanor Bashoar, Millersburg.
3. Toaster—Donated by Mae Boger, Gratz . . . Won by Naldy Leitzel, Gratz.
4. Deep Frye-Rite—Donated by Hilda Roth-ermel, Gratz . . . Won by Marguerite Rowe, Wiconisco.
5. Hat—Donated by Plymouth Hat Store, Harrisburg . . . Won by Frank Warfel, Elizabethtown.
6. Hat—Donated by Plymouth Hat Store, Reading . . . Won by Violet Rebuck, Millersburg.

Prizes Donated by Harrisburg Merchants For Lucky Seats on Grandstand

Tie—David's, 21 North Third Street.

2 Books and 1 Ballpoint Pen — Evangelical Press, 3rd and Reilly Streets.

2 Books—George Keener, 2123 Jefferson St.

Flash Light—Miller's Auto Supplies, Inc.

Evening Star Atomizer Combination — Rea & Derick, Inc.

2 cans Rayette Aqua Net Hair Spray—Dorothy Myers Beauty Salon, 2125 Jefferson Street.

Bouquet Lenthéric Confetti Cologne—Diebler Pharmacy, 2300 North Sixth Street.

2 Pearl Necklaces—Caplan's, Market Square.

Consent Mist Cologne—Martin's Cut Rate, 2027 North Sixth Street.

4 Ash Trays—Nancy Page Shop, 2111 North Sixth Street.

3-piece Plastic Storage Set, Plastic Salt and Pepper Shakers, Salt and Pepper Shakers by anonymous donors.

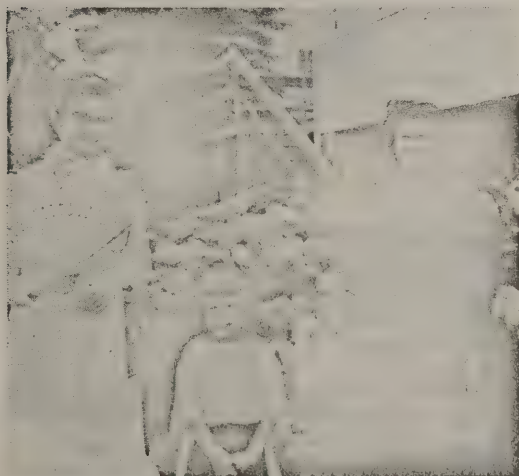
Donors and Winners of Prizes for Contributors of Cakes

Steam Iron—Donated by Albright Hardware, 1216 North Third Street. Won by Mrs. Verna Koppenhaver.

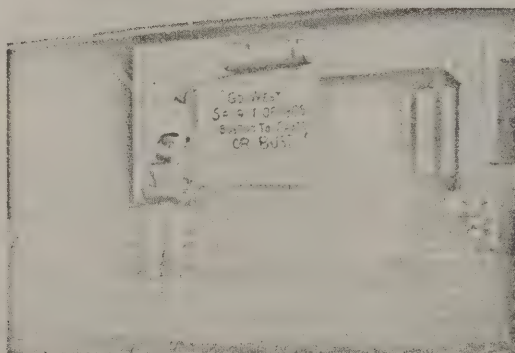
Steam Iron—Donated by Shank's, Inc., 2900 Herr Street. Won by Mrs. Lula Koppenhaver.

Our Thanks to Mary Sachs

Mary Sachs, 208 North Third Street, Harrisburg, generously gave the Queen Committee a discount on the dresses purchased for the Queen and the members of her Court. We greatly appreciate this.



Myrtle Kissinger Koppenhaver wearing dress of her grandmother (Mrs. Samuel Buffington), right. Dress over 100 years old. At left, her daughter, Betty Koppenhaver Leitzel, wears the wedding dress of her grandmother, Carrie Buffington Kissinger. Dress 53 years old. Brenda Leitzel, center, wears dress her grandmother, Mrs. Koppenhaver, wore when she was three years old.



Curt Updegrave, Boston to Gratz or Bust. (He made it.)

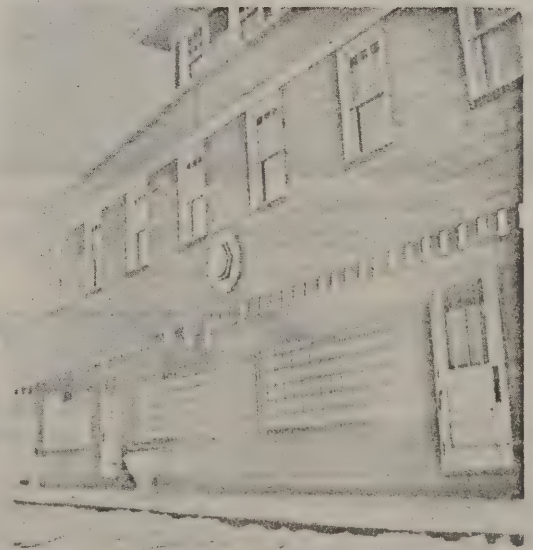
Parade Prize Winners Gratz Sesquicentennial

- A. Marching Groups with or without Bands:
First: Lykens Band with Fire Company.
Second: Sunbury Band and Fire Company.
Third: Williamstown Band and Fire Company.
- B. Drum and Bugle Corps:
First: Bonnie Scots, Millersburg.
Second: Chocolatiers, Hershey.
Third: Brumm, Minersville.
- C. Floats:
First: Evan. Cong. Sunday School.
Second: Mother Nature.
Third: Log Cabin.
Fourth: Midland Theater.
Fifth: Haven Laudenslager.
- D. Individual Groups (two or more persons):
First: Erdman Boy Scout Troop.
Second: Dark Town (Annville).
Third: Gay Nineties.
- E. Individuals:
First: Sharon Straw.
Second: Ossie Wiest
Third: My Home Town—Bert Bowers.
Fourth: Indian River—Clair Hartman.
- F. High School Bands:
First: Hegins Township High School.
Second: Tremont High School.
Third: Hegins Township Kiltie Junior Band.

SCENES ABOUT THE TOWN



Luther Wiest's Store and Restaurant . . . on site of Smith's Restaurant destroyed in 1924 fire.



Gratz Community Center

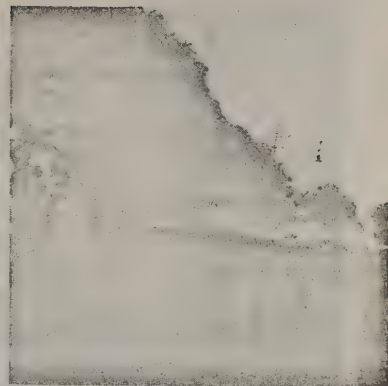
SESQUI SCENES



John Reed and the horse who refused to pull a sleigh in July



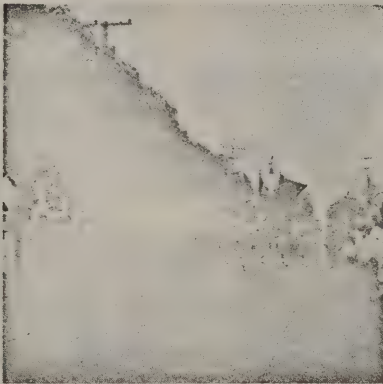
Meeting of the Queen Committee... (Left to right)—Sula Witmer, Hilda Rothermel, Elsie Felsburg, Fae Stroup, Mae Boger.



Hegins Township
Kiltie Band



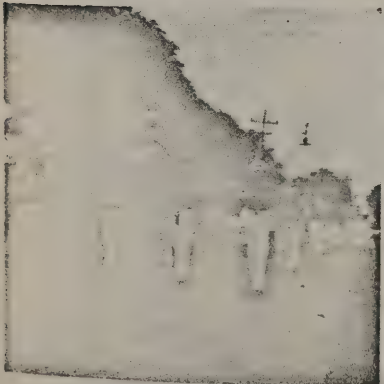
Bonnie Schminky



Parade group



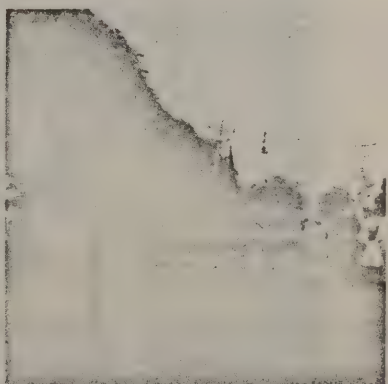
Parade scene



Millersburg Fire Company
Marching Club



Melvin Stroup's
Garage

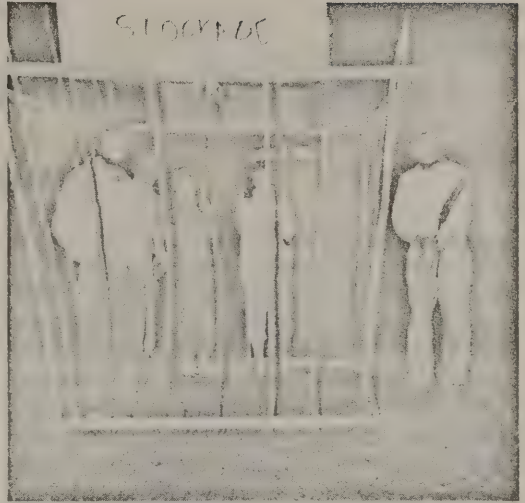


Millersburg Bonnie Scots Drum and
Bugle Corps

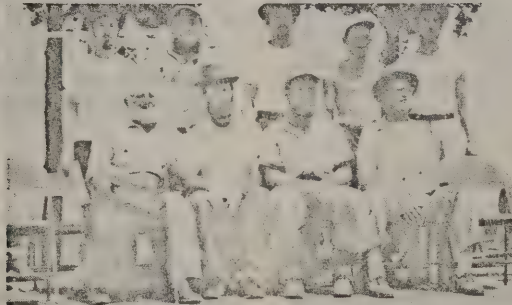
SESQUI SCENES



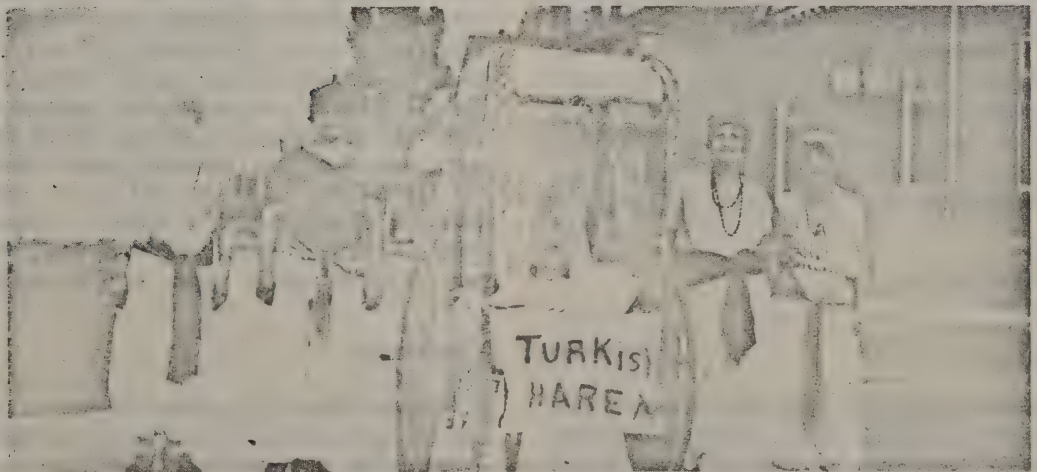
Bert Bowers and his transportation in the parade.
You should have carried the donkey, Bert.



Four who ran afoul of the law



Winners of Brothers of the Brush Contest



Comic paraders thirty years before the Sesqui. Left to right: Anna Strayer, Marie Kebaugh, Mildred Kocher, Alma Wise, Hilda Blyler.

PART II

EVENTS OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

Introducing The Lykens Valley

A stranger who peruses a map of Pennsylvania will see towards its south-eastern side a darkly-shaded portion extending almost over the entire limits of Dauphin County, indicating, as he believes, a region of mountains and rocks. He turns his eye from it satisfied that this is one of the waste places of the State, affording nothing pleasant for the residence of men. But let the stranger leave the map and make a personal inspection. He will find in the northern part of Dauphin County the Beautiful Lykens Valley between the Mahantango Mountain on the north and Short and Berry's Mountains on the south. This is where the first coal was discovered and for 150 years there were beds of the purest anthracite coal

in the world. Here he will find streams which afforded water power for innumerable mills. In the Valley he will see the rich agricultural farms, thrifty towns and villages, and breathe an atmosphere of health and buoyancy of which the dwellers in large cities, and on the plains know little. Let him come and see the town of Gratz, located in the most beautiful spot in the Valley, on a ridge called Wild Cat Ridge, where among the hills around the community were born or reared, or now repose in the grave, men whose names have gone into their country's history, and doing service to our state and nation.

—C. H. Willier

Drainage Of The Lykens Valley

The Lykens Valley, including that section of the "Upper End" of Dauphin, is watered by the Wiconisco Creek and its branches, save whence the William Valley begins, cut into the Valley by the Short Mountain. It extends eastward into the lower end of Schuylkill County. The upper end of the Valley, east of Hegins, is again broken by Little Mountain north of Hegins. The North portion is drained by the Deep Creek which extends eastward about six miles from the Sherman Mountains, the western portion of Deep Creek branches into the Pine Creek, which drains the south portion of the upper valley into the Pine

Creek that flows through Rausch Gap and cuts across the Valley through the Klingerstown Gap into the Mahantango Creek. The Western portion of the Valley on the south side of the ridge, from below Berrysburg, is drained by the Little Wiconisco Creek, and cuts across the valley at Kilinger in a southwestwardly direction into the Wiconisco. The area northwest of Gratz is drained by the Little Deep Creek, westward and joined by two small streams through the Hains Gap into the Mahantango.

—C. H. Willier

Our Indian Predecessors

The Indian tribes who dwelt among the primitive forests of Pennsylvania on the first settlement of Europeans, called themselves the Lenni Lenape, or original people.

The Lenni Lenape were divided into three principal divisions—the Unamis or Turtle tribes, the Unalachitgos or Turkey tribes, and the Monseys or Wolf tribes. The first

two occupied the country along the coast between the sea and the Kittatinny or Blue Mountains. The Monseys or Wolf tribes inhabited the Susquehanna Valley. They were known among the settlers as the Delaware Indians. It is certain they found but few spots in the interior of the county which invited their fixed abode. There were Indian villages on Duncan's Island, one on the present site of Millersburg, one at the mouth of Paxton Creek, and another a short distance north of it.

The three divisions of the Lenni Lenape were again divided into various subordinate clans, who assumed names suited to their character or situation. These were the tribes who occupied the territory along a greater portion of the valley of the Susquehanna, and who styled themselves the "Susquehanna." The next nearest distinctive tribe mentioned is that of the "Conestogas," who occupied the village south of the Conewago hills. The early settlers and provincial authorities, however, styled those who lived in the Harrisburg area simply the "Indians at Paxtang, or Paxtang Indians."

A treaty was made with the Indians about the year 1689 to make a purchase of

"all that tract of land lying on both sides of the river Susquehanna and lakes adjacent, in or near the province of Pennsylvania." The purchase was effected, in consideration of one hundred pounds of sterling.

The Conestoga Indians, however, would not recognize the validity of the sale, believing that the Five Nations had no proper authority to transfer their possessions. Penn, subsequently, entered into an article of agreement with the Conestoga, Susquehanna, and Potomac Indians, and deeds were confirmed. On the arrival of John, Thomas, and Richard Penn at Philadelphia, they renewed old treaties of friendships, on the 11th of October, 1736, and deeds were made to them, their heirs, successors and assigns. Thus were the claims of the Indians relinquished to the proprietors of all the land that lies in the present limits of Dauphin County, except that portion north of the Kittatinny or Blue Mountain, five miles above Harrisburg. The part above these mountains was purchased, including a large tract of country, in 1749.

—C. H. Willier

Indians In The Lykens Valley

There is no evidence that the Indians lived in this valley. There are numerous places that show they had temporary encampments in the valley. In the upper part of the valley is a place that was full of arrowheads, arrow chips, and tomahawks. They were found by the early settlers, and this points to the undisputed fact that they did make temporary encampments here.

Long after the first settlers came into the valley, a lone Indian lived in a stone house near Hegins. Below Gratz, on the Amsterdam, there was a retreat or encampment of the Indians. The last arrow head found on the farm was in 1954 by Dale Willier. The last Indian seen in this area was by Sarah Willier, Adam's wife, who went into the back field for berries when she saw one sitting at the spring. They called it the "Indian Spring." It was a refreshing spot to

get a good drink when you worked in the back 20-acre field. At a spot of their camp was the place we called the black earth. Last year the plow was put down very deep and charcoal as thick as an arm was plowed up. This gives proof of the camp fires they had there. A jar full of it is kept for a display.

It is through this valley the Indians traveled from the raids they made in Berks County in the valleys of the Blue Mountains. They took the Tulpehocken Trail at Kohler's (Rausch) Gap, down the valley, which later became known as the Old Reading Road, and stop at the camp on "Amsterdam," a day's journey, then west through Hain's (Pillow) Gap to the Susquehanna, along the river to Fort Augusta at Sunbury, another day's journey, then north along the Susquehanna River into New York or eastern Ohio.

Margaret Everhart, when a young girl, was made captive by the Indians during one of their incursions into the territory near what is now Pine Grove, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, and was carried into the wilderness west of the Ohio River. There she remained a prisoner until General Forbes, by his skill and courage, broke the French power over that territory. She was then rescued and returned to her friends in Berks County. She was married to John Sallade, one of the most distinguished pioneers of the upper end of Dauphin County, south of Gratz. She was born in 1747. They were the parents of five sons and two daughters. Simon Sallada was the next to the youngest child.

Simon Sallade became a millwright by trade and designed and built many of the mills within a radius of 40 or 50 miles of Gratz. He served four terms in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and was the sponsor of the bill which authorized the construction of the Wiconisco Canal between Clark's Ferry and Millersburg. By appointment of the Canal Commissioners he served as superintendent of construction for this canal. He had also served in the same capacity in the building of the Lykens Valley Railroad.

It was on another occasion that a band of fifteen Indians traveled this trail; this time with captives Barbara Regina Hartman and a neighbor girl, Susan. Their families from

east of the Blue Mountains were murdered for scalps, and the children taken along, the Indians thinking they would get a reward for them. The Indian's name who did the leading was Pottowasnos. They traveled some eighteen or twenty days till they came to the end of their journey in New York. Two of the girls again returned to Berks County and back to their home land.

The mother and the youngest son Christian were spared during that raid. In the morning they had gone to the mill towards Reading and the horse was loaded with rye to be made into flour for their daily bread. Christian was young and was riding along on a horse. When the mother came home she saw the horror that had struck her home. There was no house and no barn. Her husband and oldest son were found killed and scalped. After the War the Indians had to give up these children and were brought to Carlisle by Colonel Bouquet to be returned to their parents. Many parents found their long lost boys or girls that day. Mrs. Hartman could not see hers. She was ready to give up and go home. She had no mark of identification on her that she knew of. The colonel asked her if she knew of any hymns she had sung when at home. She said she was a good German singer. She was persuaded to sing it and the next thing she knew her daughter was in her arms.

—C. H. Willier

The French and Indian War

A friendly feeling had existed between the Indians and the inhabitants of Pennsylvania for a period of nearly 70 years. In 1753, however, a different spirit manifested itself in the conduct of some of the Indians in the western part of the colony. By uniting themselves with the French, they murdered most cruelly. The inhabitants of the frontier were in a panic, for the Indians, true to their character, when enemies, struck wherever an opportunity presented itself, saving neither sex nor age.

This well matured onslaught by the Indians, drove the Whites to acts of desper-

ation. Wherever they went, murder and cruelty marked their path, and even professed friendly Indians, had fallen under strong suspicions as being, to some extent, concerned in these foul murders.

At various periods between 1752 and 1760, the Provincial Governor erected a line of forts between the Delaware River and the Potomac. The nearest fort to the Lykens Valley was Fort Halifax. Because of the Provincial Governor this section of Dauphin was refused protection, and there were many troublesome times.

—C. H. Willier

The Story Of Andrew Lycans (Lycans)

In 1732 Andrew Lycans settled on the Swatara Creek, where he took up 250 acres of land. In 1740, he removed to the west side of the Susquehanna, where he settled between Sherman's Creek and the Juniata. Four or five others also settled there.

This land had not been included in the last Indian purchase and the Shawnee Indians, who had a few scattered villages on the Juniata, complained of the encroachment of these settlers and demanded their removal. The provincial authorities sent, in 1748, the Sheriff of Lancaster County and three magistrates, accompanied by Conrad Weiser, to warn the people to leave at once. But they remained, determined not to be driven away, at least by threats.

On May 27, 1750, a number of high dignitaries appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor, accompanied by the Deputy Sheriff, went to the place where Andrew Lycans and his neighbors lived, took them all into custody, and burned their cabins. They were committed to jail in Lancaster.

Lycans and his neighbors were subsequently released by order of Governor Hamilton. Andrew Lycans moved with his family to the east side of the Susquehanna River beyond the Kittochtinny Mountains, and by permission of the authorities "settled on a tract of land, about 200 acres, situated on the northerly side of Whisconesong Creek." Here he made extensive improvements. Until the spring of 1756, these pioneers were not disturbed. Then, along came the savages and began their work of devastation and death.

On March 7, 1756, Andrew Lycans and John Rewalt, went out early to feed their cattle, when they were suddenly startled by the report of two rifles. Neither of them being harmed, they were able to reach the house, where they prepared themselves for defense in case of attack.

The Indians concealed themselves behind the hog-house, not far from the dwelling. John Lycans, a son of Andrew, John Rewalt and Ludwig Shott, a neighbor, crept out of

the house in an effort to discover the whereabouts of the savages and get a shot at them, but they were fired upon by the savages and each one wounded, Shott receiving a dangerous wound in the abdomen.

At this moment Andrew Lycans discovered one of the Indians named Joshua James near the hog-house, and also two white men running away from their hiding place. Lycans fired and killed James.

John Lycans and John Rewalt were too badly wounded to put up a fight much longer, but with the aid of a Negro servant, they escaped, leaving Andrew Lycans, Ludwig Shott, and a boy to engage the Indians. The savages pursued them so closely that one of them coming up to the boy was going to strike him with a tomahawk, when Ludwig turned and shot him dead, while Lycans killed another and wounded a third Indian.



Covered Bridge across Wiconisco—Just a few feet from spot where Indians attacked Andrew Lycans

The Indian killed by Shott was named Bill Davis. Two others recognized by Lycans were Tom Hickman and Tom Gayer, all of the Delaware tribe, and well known in that neighborhood.

At last, being exhausted and wounded they sat down on a log to rest themselves, but the Indians were somewhat cautious and

stood some distance from them, and momentarily ceased their pursuit, returning to look after their own wounded. Lycans and all his party managed to get over the mountain into Hanover Township, where neighbors gave them assistance, but Andrew Lycans died from his injuries and exposures.

This pioneer martyr left a wife, one son and five daughters. They returned to their home as soon as the danger was over, and on more than one subsequent occasion were compelled to flee before the marauding savages.

The Hoffman family had to leave the valley on account of the Indian raids. There were other families along the Wiconisco that had to flee on account of the Indian raids. Adam Wise, the first justice of the peace, also had to flee, but later returned to the valley. The one attack in which Andrew Lycans was killed is the only occasion where a life was lost by the Indian incursions into the valley.

John Lycans, son of Andrew, became an officer in the provincial service, commissioned July 12, 1762. In June, 1764, he was stationed at Manada Gap. His mother, Jane Lycans, in February 1765, had a patent issued to her for the land on which her hus-

band had located. The original Lycans log-house stood until about 1870. It was situated a few yards north of the bridge that crosses the Wiconisco. It was built of hewn logs with windows about nine inches square, which were also used as port holes. It was then owned by Josiah Hoover. The site is now owned by Domer Shaffer.

Ludwig Shutt recovered from his serious wounds and lived until about 1802 and left a large family, some of his descendants being present residents of Lykens Valley. Several writers wrote the name Shott. Ludwig Shott (Shutt) was overseer of the poor in Upper Paxtang Township, as it was called at that time, in 1800. John Rewalt subsequently removed to another part of the province, as did John Lykens.

Andrew Lycans has given his name to the Beautiful Valley of the Wiconisco, owing possibly to his fatal encounter with the Indians, Mar. 7, 1756. The orthography was changed with the close of the century. Whether the new spelling or the original, it is trusted that no attempt be ever made to deprive the first pioneer of the name which has been appropriately given to it, "The Beautiful Lykens Valley."

—C. H. Willier

Gleanings From An Old Book

Your committee was fortunate in getting into its possession a book which was used as a settlement book; first by the Overseers of the Poor of Upper Paxton Township, beginning with the year 1798, and after 1810, following the division of the township, as the settlement book for the supervisors of Lykens Township.

From this book the writer has gleaned some interesting odds and ends which provide us with sidelights of various phases of life a hundred and more years ago.

During the period the Overseers of the Poor used the book there are frequent entries of fines collected for breaking the Sabbath and the use of profanity. Also stray animals were sold and the receipts used for the relief of the poor. Orphaned children

had a hard life in those days. In 1802 a poor child named Catherine Meyers was bound by Jacob Wearth, overseer of the poor, to Philip Hedrick for the term of fifteen years and seven months. Presumably, the child was two years and five months old at the time, and was to all intents and purposes a slave until age eighteen.

Although our present system of currency was adopted in 1783, all the accounts were kept in pounds, shillings and pence until the year 1809. The settlement made for that year is in dollars and cents for the first time.

Wages and prices were low in the early days. In 1825 road labor was paid forty cents per day. The supervisors, of whom there were always two until 1844, received 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ cents per day; a man bringing a four

horse team received \$1.75 per day; a man and a three horse team were worth \$1.50 per day; a man and two horses, \$1.25. Wages fluctuated somewhat, and during the inflationary period of the Civil War were up to one dollar per day for labor, while the supervisor raided the treasury for \$1.25 per day!

In 1844 Theodore Gratz, our first burgess-to-be, was paid one dollar for opening a drifted road.

The remuneration for work other than ordinary labor was in the same category. In 1822 after Mifflin Township was erected Michael Enterline, John Hoffman, and Thomas Smith received seven dollars for running the line separating Lykens and Mifflin townships. In 1835 the surveyors were paid \$3.50 for laying out the mountain road from Deibler's Gap to Klinger's Gap. It is probable, however, since both surveys involved Mifflin Township, that they were paid a like amount by Mifflin.

During this year of 1825, for which wages were quoted, the tax duplicate for the township supervisors was \$179.24. And remember that included not only the Lykens Township of today, but also Gratz Borough, Wiconisco Township and Williams Township.

Ten years later everybody was happy. For the year 1835 no road taxes had to be collected, because they had a balance of \$188.19½ in the treasury from the year before. In spite of the fact that they had collected no tax they finished the year with a whopping balance of \$7.37¾ in the treasury!

As the number of settlers increased, and more roads had to be opened, the expenses also went up. In 1850 the supervisor, who, as was customary, acted as his own tax collector, reported that his "Tax Dobblegate" was \$648.73. Two years later, after Gratz Borough was incorporated, the tax duplicate in the township had decreased to \$305.59. This would indicate that the greater percentage of the valuation was in the borough, a condition which no longer holds true.

During all these years they literally bought lumber for a song. At no time did they pay more than \$15 per thousand feet, and in 1844 they got it for ten dollars. In-

cidentally, next to labor costs, lumber was their chief item of expense. To be sure there were other expenses. As early as 1828 they put sign boards along the roads; there were always blacksmithing expenditures for sharpening picks and repairing plows; but, oh, so often there are entries in the book for "Blanks and timpers for maken briches".

In 1834, when the Free School Law was passed, Lykens Township promptly complied with the law and held a special school election for the purpose of electing directors to provide for the free schools and conduct them. The cost of the election was \$4.12.

The Free School Law, more properly called the Common School Law, as originally passed, had no teeth in it. Successive legislatures strengthened it, but the majority of the Pennsylvania Dutch communities fought free schools as assiduously as we today fight cancer and communism.

Be it said to the glory of our forebears of 121 years ago that they were from the beginning in favor of education for all the children. Their attitude was in sharp contrast to that of one of our neighboring districts, which did not fall into line until 1850, and then only under the coercive mandate of court.

One Schuylkill County district (not one of our neighbors) succeeded in evading compliance with the law for 24 years. Finally school directors favorable to free schools were appointed by the court, who in turn appointed a tax collector solely because of his physical qualifications. Read his story:

"Many guns were leveled at me, and threats were made. At one house I was badly scalded by a woman throwing boiling water over me; at another a woman struck me on the back of the head with a heavy iron poker; and at another I was knocked down with a stone and assaulted with pitchforks and clubs, but succeeded in getting away with three cows. Many wealthy farmers did not pay their tax till I had taken some of their stock, advertised it for sale, and they had consulted their attorneys."

Lloyd M. Bellis.

Upper Paxtang

Upper Paxtang Township was formed in 1765 and covered all of the county north of Kittatinny Mountain, known as the First, Second, and Third and Peters dividing ridges; then the broad, thick, sharp Big Lick ridges; then Berry's and Mahantango on the northern border. The Mahantango Creek is the northern boundary of the county. The creek is on the north side of the Mountain. It is an Indian name. On the early maps it is called "Kind Creek." There is a finely cultivated small valley on either side of it. Since 1729 the three mountains were called Peter's Mountains. Peter Allen came into the neighborhood from Conestoga, Chester, now Lancaster County. He came up the river in 1724 and made preparation for permanent location.

The first election held in Upper Paxton (Paxtang) was held in the home of John Matter, near Gratz, on the 18th day of May in 1799 A.D. The following persons were elected to settle the affairs of the overseers of the poor, concerning fines, recovering belongings of the Township: John Ewig, Jacob Sheifsky, Abraham Kissinger, and John Shive. They settled the accounts and affairs of the overseers of 1798; Antony Fraly, Ioft Miller; and of the 1799 overseers, Michael Sallade and Joseph Brubaker.

The first accounts amounted to 5£, 10s, 33p. For a number of years the accounts were figured in English money. For collecting tax 1802 1£ 6s. Adam Weise, Weaver, Lenker and Hopple were Esquires. John Deibler was fined the sum of 15s for breaking the Sabbath in 1800. In 1803 Joe Snyder was fined 15s for a break of the Sabbath. In 1805 the persons to settle the affairs were called Auditors. The writing was not very

good at this period on account of there being no school system. Their school training was given to them by their mothers. So the writing was neglected. Many of the names signed as auditors could not be deciphered. The election was held yearly, and every year new names appeared. They knew nothing about politics. Every one was given a chance to serve in the few offices to be filled in the Township. These were only auditors and road supervisors as the elections appear. The only name that appeared twice from 1798 to 1811 was John Rieggle. He was the only one to succeed himself in the office of auditor. The people that helped to carry on the affairs of the Township were: Philip Enders, Michael Enderline, Michael Sallade, Ludwig Shott, John Shive, Jacob Wearth, John Hoffman, Esquire, Jacob Wertz, Isaac Ferree, Benjamin Burrell, John Woodside. (John Woodside was the great-great-grandfather of Robert E. Woodside, who is now Superior Court Judge of Pennsylvania. His residence is at Millersburg.) John was among the first people to settle in Beautiful Lykens Valley.

Doctor Samuel Doty, John Matter, Jacob Deterick, Daniel Ferree, Nicholas Snyder, Myest Covahaver, Henry Myer, John Schoffstall, John Sallady, George Werth, John Bufington, Peter Willier, Philip Lenker, Nicholas Hoffman (overseer), George Feidt, George Shoop, William Mattheas, Joseph Snyder, Joseph Mchain, Christian Zimmerman, John Deibler, Valentin Welker were other early settlers.

This closes the period from 1765 to 1810. Upper Paxtang was divided into other townships.

—C. H. Willier

The Evolution of Our Political Subdivisions

When Simon Gratz laid out our town he was making a settlement not in Lykens but in Upper Paxton Township. For back in 1805 Upper Paxton Township extended from the Susquehanna River in the west to Berks (Schuylkill since March 18, 1811) County

line in the east; and from Mahantango Creek in the north to the summit of Berry's Mountain in the south.

As the number of settlers was increasing rather steadily it soon became evident that, for proper administration in those days of

horseback travel, it was necessary to make the administrative units smaller.

Accordingly, the residents petitioned the three commissioners to have the township divided. These recommended that a line beginning in Peter Rickert's Gap on the mountain south of Elizabethtown and running across the valley in a somewhat zig-zag course, with Buffington's (St. John's) Church the easternmost angle of the line, and crossing the Mahantango Mountain to the creek bearing the same name, should divide Upper Paxton Township into two townships. The western portion was to retain the old name, and the eastern portion was to receive the designation of Lykens Township in honor of Andrew Lycans, pioneer settler on the banks of the Wiconisco south of present-day Loyalton, and whose name had already been given to the whole valley. The Dauphin County court approved the proposal on September 3, 1810.

This arrangement was short-lived. The residents still were of the opinion that their problems were only partially solved, and, by similar procedures, the two townships were made into three on March 12, 1819. The eastern portion of Upper Paxton Township and the western portion of Lykens Township were made into a new township which was given the name of Mifflin in honor of Governor Mifflin.

Roads And Transportation

The primitive roads in the territory now forming the County of Dauphin and Lykens Valley were the Indian trails, which the white traders followed with their pack horses. These in time became the regular thoroughfares of the early settlers. The trails traversed the county eastward to Tulpehocken, thence to Easton, westward to Fort Pitt, north along the valley of the Susquehanna into New York state, and southward along the river into Maryland.

One hundred and fifty years ago it was not an uncommon sight to see as many as five hundred pack horses passing the ferry at Harrisburg westward and northward, loaded with merchandise, salt, iron, etc.

For similar reasons the portion of Lykens Township south of Short Mountain became a separate entity on July 2, 1839, and given the name of Wiconisco Township. For the third time Lykens Township was reduced in area when Gratz Borough was incorporated on April 3, 1852.

On January 23, 1846 the southern portion of Mifflin Township became Washington Township; and, after almost thirty years of existence, Wiconisco Township yielded the eastern portion of its area, on February 7, 1869, to become Williams Township.

Across the line in Schuylkill County Hubley and Hegins Townships were both erected in 1853 by a division of Lower Mahantango Township.

It is noteworthy that these more recent subdivisions of our counties were made for the purpose of better administering the schools after the enactment of the Free Schools Act in 1834. A century ago with the poor transportation available our forefathers thought this was necessary. What do you think they would say today as we reverse their actions and create larger administrative districts in our schools in the form of jointures and mergers?

Lloyd M. Bellis.

The iron was carried on horseback, being crooked over and around their bodies; barrels or kegs were hung on each side of these.

The pack horses were generally led in divisions of twelve or fifteen horses carrying about two hundredweight each, going single file, and managed by two men, one going before as the leader, and the other in the rear, to see after the safety of the packs.

The pack horses were generally furnished with bells, which were kept from ringing during the day drive, but were loose at night, when the horses were set free and permitted to feed and browse. The bells were intended to help locate the horses in the morning.

The pack road led from Gratz to the end of Short Mountain along the Mountain, south to the Forge. The trail crossed over Berry's Mountain, over into the Kettle and then southward, over the Peters Mountain into the Hanover Township District. A number of years ago it could be traced from the Forge south of Loyalton to as far as the Kettle. Later a trail led along the north side of Berry's Mountain to the Susquehanna River. Then later a railroad was built.

When wagons were first introduced, the carriers considered that mode of transportation an invasion of their rights. Their indignation was more excited, and they manifested greater rancor, than did the regular teamsters when railroad cars came into use about forty years afterwards.

As the settlements increased in the interior of the colony, the Susquehanna River became an important avenue of transportation, at first by means of canoes, then by keel-bottomed boats, or "broad-horns." In 1790 over 150,000 bushels of wheat were brought down the Susquehanna, and passed through Middletown for the Philadelphia market.

It was, however, the article of lumber that proved the greatest bulk of the tonnage, carried down the Susquehanna. This trade commenced shortly after the Revolution, and continued to increase rapidly up to the completion of the canal and railroad system of the state, although a large proportion still continued to descend the stream annually in 1877.

The Charles Hess barn in Gratz was built from this lumber which was anchored at Herndon, and there sawed into timber and hauled by four-mule team to Gratz. That barn was later destroyed by fire.

The earliest official records of roads established by the authorities in this region was in 1735 from Harris Ferry to Baltimore. The first years of Dauphin County the following roads were laid out and confirmed by the court: Harrisburg to Middletown, 1785; Harrisburg to Hummelstown, 1785; Harrisburg to Jonestown, 1787; Berks to Dauphin, 1816; 34 miles, \$63,905 at \$50 a share. Peters Mountain February 16, 1828, Dauphin and Sunbury April 5, 1830; Berrys Mountain March 25, 1832; the Reading - Millersburg Road, 1820. Pottsville to Gratz about 1840.

—C. H. Willier

Conrad Weiser and the Tulpehocken Path

The Tulpehocken Path was the most important Indian Trail through the Lykens Valley. It extended from Shamokin (now Sunbury) to Womelsdorf. There it joined another Indian trail leading from Harrisburg to Reading and Philadelphia.

This Tulpehocken Path was the trail which the Indians had followed for many generations before the white man came, because it was the shortest feasible passage-way from the forks of the Susquehanna to the lower Delaware. Hunting parties, war parties and Indian migrations generally followed this route.

To us the path is of interest because it was the route taken many times by one of our fellow Pennsylvania Germans, Conrad Weiser, on most of his many trips between Womelsdorf and Shamokin (Sunbury) and points north.

Conrad Weiser was born in Germany in 1696. In 1710 when he was fourteen he came with his father, John Conrad Weiser, to the New World with four thousand other Germans and settled in New York State. Here they became the victims of unscrupulous politicians, and after being shunted about from place to place, always in utmost poverty, thirty-three families accepted the invitation of Governor Keith to come to Pennsylvania. In 1723 they loaded their few worldly possessions into boats, floated them down the Susquehanna to the mouth of the Swatara at present-day Middletown, thence up this stream, and then went overland into the valley of the Tulpehocken.

Although the senior Weiser was in charge of this migration, his son, the subject of our sketch, remained behind until

1729, when he too came to the valley of the Tulpehocken near Womelsdorf.

At the age of seventeen he had been adopted into the Mohawk Indian nation. He lived with them for a period of eight months, and became thoroughly versed in their language; here he learned their customs and manners, their culture and traditions. Unwittingly during this short period of time he laid the foundation for his noteworthy career as an American statesman.

It was in 1731 that Conrad began his career as the intermediary between the White Man in Pennsylvania and the Red Man to the north, commonly known as the Iroquois Confederacy or the Six Nations. He continued in this role almost to the day of his death in 1760. Historians today believe that it was Weiser alone who kept the Iroquois on the side of the English during the French and Indian War and they conjecture that had it not been for the skilled diplomacy of Weiser the Iroquois might have joined the French, and further, that the French probably would have won the war, and America would have become a French-speaking nation. Because of his knowledge of the Indian and his language he was able to see the Indians' point of view, could explain the white man's position and thus brought about amicable agreements.

In the course of his career as emissary to the Indians he frequently made trips to Shamokin to confer with Shikellamy, the great vice-regent of the Iroquois, who was stationed there. Other times he had to go to Onondago in New York state to the Great Council Fire there. These trips were nearly always made over the Tulpehocken Path.

On these journeys Weiser left from his home at Womelsdorf, came to Bethel and thence across the Blue (Kittatinny) Mountain to Pine Grove, thence to Ravine, and by the winding trail across the Broad Mountain via Lincoln, Lorberry, Joliett and Good Springs to the spring south of Hegins, near Lamberson. This was a refreshment stop. The journey then continued down the valley on the elevation between the Pine

and Deep Creeks, following roughly Route 25 to the lower end of Sacramento, thence approximately by the present road from there through Fearnot and the Klingers-town Gap. A stopover at the junction of the Mahantango and Pine Creeks was a must. This was known as the "Spread Eagle", or, as Weiser said in his German, "Der doppelte Adler". This was a frequent stopping place over night. From there the trail continued to Shamokin by various routes, depending on the season, conditions underfoot, and perhaps on the whim of the traveler. It was a journey of three or four days.

It became known that with Weiser as a guide, white people need have no fear of the Indians. For this reason people who had business in Indian country frequently asked him to be their guide. Several journal-keeping people engaged him in this capacity.

The first of these was Nicolaus Ludwig, Count of Zinzendorf, a bishop in the Moravian Church, who made a missionary trip to the Indians in 1742. It was in his honor that the spring south of Hegins was given the name Ludwig's Ruh (Ludwig's Rest). It was also on this journey that our valley received its first name, Anna's Valley, (Anen Thal), in honor of Anna Nitschmann, one of the missionaries in the party. Zinzendorf also on this trip gave the Mahantango Creek the name Benigna in honor of his daughter the Countess Benigna.

The following year Weiser acted as guide to John Bartram, the famous botanist, and to mapmaker Lewis Evans. On this trip Bartram made notes on the vegetation, and Evans, somewhere between Hegins and the Klingerstown Gap, noted that this was a "pleasant and fruitful valley" and made the sage observation that it "would make a pretty settlement." Prophetic words, long ago fulfilled.

Conrad Weiser served the province of Pennsylvania and other provinces many years for little financial remuneration. During the 1750's the provincial authorities corrected this oversight by granting Conrad large tracts of land in the Herndon-Selins-

grove-Sunbury area. At his death in 1760 he left about three thousand acres of land. This included land on either side of the river as well as large islands. This land his heirs later divided.

One of these heirs was a grandson also named Conrad who had married John Philip Klinger's daughter Elizabeth in 1775, before the Klingers migrated to the Lykens Valley. They lived in Mahanoy Township in the Herndon area, on land granted to the elder Conrad. Both the younger Conrad and Elizabeth are buried at Klinger's Church.

In 1769 the Tulpehocken Path became the first improved road in our valley. This gave the residents of Gratz and vicinity a postoffice at the Klingerstown Gap.

The Tulpehocken Path is still with us. Conrad Weiser, like other mortals, has

moved on. The remains of him and his wife rest in an apple orchard a little distance west of his rugged stone house in Weiser Park at the eastern end of Womelsdorf.

This man, father-in-law of the great Lutheran patriarch Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, and also the grandfather of both John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, the famous Revolutionary general, and Frederick Augustus Conrad Muhlenberg, first Speaker of the House in the United States Congress, was an outstanding American whose greatness some historians are only beginning to appreciate.

A visit to his old home over the path he made famous should prove to be an inspiration to anyone reading this tribute.

—Lloyd M. Bellis

The Eisenhowers In The Lykens Valley

Many of the residents of our valley have a vague knowledge of the fact that the ancestors of President Eisenhower once lived in the Elizabethtown-Millersburg area. It is the purpose of this article to put the Eisenhower family record as it pertains to their sojourn here into a concise and readable form.

The President is a sixth generation American. The progenitor of the family in America was Nicholas Eisenhower, who came from the Rhineland, in Germany, via Rotterdam, The Netherlands, on the ship Europa, late in the year of 1741. With him were his wife, three sons and a daughter. Nicholas was then fifty years of age. His eldest son Peter was twenty-five. It is from this son that the President is descended.

Both father Nicholas and son Peter settled in Berks (now Lebanon) County, in Bethel Township, near present-day Fredericksburg. They were both engaged in farming, and together with their neighbors had, in 1756 and 1757, during the French and Indian War, the experience of harvesting their crops under the protection of small bodies of militia. In spite of this protection many of their neighbors were killed and scalped, their children kidnaped, and their

homes burned. At least seven people were killed and scalped by the Indians on farms adjacent to the Eisenhower farms. Nicholas Eisenhower's newly-built home was also burned.

In 1779 Peter sold his farm in Lebanon County and moved farther west along the Blue Mountains to what is now Lower Paxton Township, Dauphin County, where he bought another farm near present-day Lingestown.

Peter Eisenhower was the father of sixteen children. His fourth son was named Frederick, who gave his life as a soldier in the Revolution. In 1794, when Peter was seventy-eight years old, his third wife presented him with a son whom they named Frederick. It is from this second Frederick in Peter's family that the President is descended.

Frederick was still a small boy when his father Peter died in 1802. He grew to manhood during the early years of the nineteenth century, and married Barbara Miller from the neighborhood of Hummelstown. While Frederick and his wife were still living in Lower Paxton Township Jacob Eisenhower, destined to become the grandfather

of a president, was born to them September 19, 1826.

It was also in Lower Paxton Township that Frederick became a member of the River Brethren Church, now the Brethren in Christ Church. Up to this time the family had been Lutheran. In later years he and his son Jacob became powers of influence in his newly-adopted church.

When Jacob was four years old Frederick moved to the Lykens Valley, settling on a farm on Route 209 between Millersburg and Rife which is now the property of Rufus R. Romberger and tenanted by his son.

Jacob was married to Rebecca Matter, and in 1854 moved to the 96-acre farm at the western edge of Elizabethtown. It was here that David Eisenhower, the president's father, one of fourteen children, was born on September 23, 1863.

It was also in 1863 that Jacob became the preacher for the Brethren in Christ congregation in the Lykens Valley. His spacious brick house, in addition to being the home of his large family, served as a place of worship for these people.

The pioneering spirit in the Eisenhower blood again manifested itself, and Jacob moved with his family to Kansas in 1878. With him went his wife, eight children, and his father Frederick, then 84 years old.

Sleeping in the hillside cemetery of his church, between Millersburg and Rife, several hundred yards north of Route 209, four sons and two daughters, all uncles and aunts of the president, were left behind as well as his mother Barbara Miller Eisenhower, the president's great-grandmother, a brother John, and a sister Annie, who, before her death in 1849, had been the wife of Joseph Novinger.

Joseph and Annie Eisenhower Novinger had five children, only two of whom, John and Lizzie, remained in the valley. It is through Annie that the Eisenhower blood is perpetuated in the Lykens Valley. Many of the older Novingers and Keefers in the lower end of the valley are second cousins of the President; the Novingers being the children of Annie's son John, and the Keefers the children of her daughter Lizzie, who was the wife of John A. Keefer.

Through Rebecca Matter Eisenhower there are also some Matters and others who are second cousins of the President.

During the summer of 1955 the Elizabethtown Rotary Club marked the Eisenhower ancestral home with a bronze plaque mounted on a huge boulder placed in the front yard of the home. Mr. and Mrs. Lee W. Phillips, the present owners of the estate, donated the plot of ground on which the marker was placed to the Borough of Elizabethtown. The huge boulder was donated and placed by the Faylor Lime and Stone Company.

On Sunday, October 23, 1955 the plaque was dedicated with fitting and impressive ceremonies. The main address was delivered by Dr. Robert L. Johnson, president of Temple University. Dr. Milton S. Eisenhower, president of Pennsylvania State University, and brother of the President, represented the Eisenhower family, expressed the family's appreciation, and unveiled the plaque.

Other participants in the program were Robert F. Straub, president of the Rotary Club, who presided; Rev. W. Z. Artz, who offered the invocation and pronounced the benediction; Judge Robert E. Woodside, who introduced the speaker; and the Upper Dauphin High School Band under the direction of Peter Carpenter.

The inscription of the plaque reads as follows:

Eisenhower Ancestral Home — Built in 1854 — By Jacob F. Eisenhower — Grandfather of Dwight D. Eisenhower — 34th President of the United States of America — From this Farm the Family migrated to Kansas in the Summer of 1878.

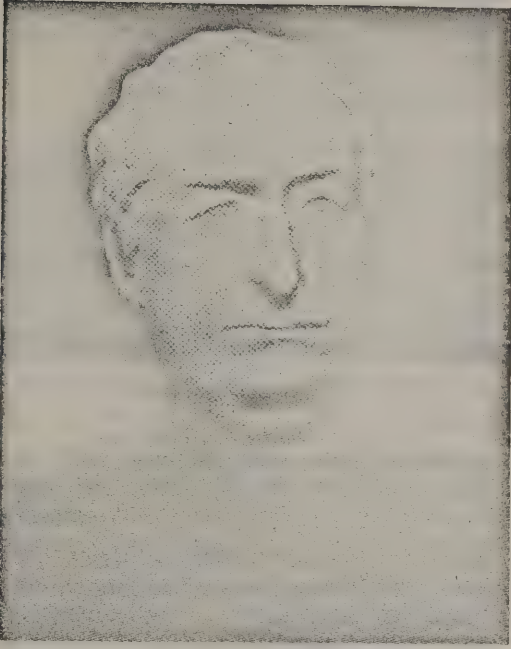
A telegram from President Eisenhower in which he expressed his appreciation of the honor and his regrets that he was unable to be present was read by Mr. Straub.

The Elizabethtown Rotary Club and Mr. and Mrs. Phillips are to be commended for this tangible expression of patriotic sentiment.

—Lloyd M. Bellis

Note: The writer acknowledges his indebtedness to John E. Lebo and his wife, Sara Keefer Lebo whose help on the Eisenhower relatives in the Lykens Valley was most valuable.

Simon Gratz and His People



Simon Gratz from a bust in the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts

Simon Gratz, the founder of our town, was born in Philadelphia, January 14, 1773. He was the eldest of five sons born to Michael and Miriam Simon Gratz.

Michael Gratz came to America in 1759, five years after his brother Bernard had come to Philadelphia. The two brothers engaged in the merchandising business under the firm name of B. & M. Gratz, Merchants. They were engaged in coastwise trade from New Orleans in the South to Quebec in the North.

Their mercantile establishment was located at what is now 700-704 Market Street. The building stood until about twenty-five years ago. Since that time the Penn National Bank occupies this site.

It was on the second floor of the Gratz building that Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Jefferson rented rooms here from the Gratz family for his home during the sessions of the Second Continental Congress. In reply to a letter from Dr. James Mease, Jefferson wrote on September 16, 1825, about ten

months before his death, "At the time of writing this document I lodged in the house of Mr. Gratz, a new brick house, three stories high. I rented the second floor. In the parlor I wrote this paper."

By a little stretch of the imagination one can see Simon Gratz, then three years old, frequently annoying the great Virginia statesman as he was concentrating on the exact phrasing of the fiery words of the immortal document.

Both Michael and Bernard Gratz were ardent patriots during the Revolution. Indeed, after the passage of the Stamp Act in 1765 they both had signed the Non-Importation Resolution, adopted on October 2, 1765, by the "merchants and other citizens of Philadelphia" as a remonstrance against this despicable act. When the war came along they cast their lot with the Revolutionists.

After carrying on their coastwise trade successfully for a number of years they were influenced by Joseph Simon, Michael's father-in-law, to get into the Indian trade from Lancaster westward. They were the wholesalers who supplied the traders dealing with the Indians via pack-horse and Conestoga wagons.

In 1798 Simon and his brother Hyman took over the business of B. & M. Gratz.

Closely associated with the Gratz Brothers was Aaron Levy, who had become an extensive landowner in the central portion of the state, and in 1786 had founded the town of Aaronsburg in Center County. When Simon Gratz was a young man Levy adopted him, and, in his will dated June 28, 1802, left him extensive bequests. Levy had been the owner of Wild Cat Ridge, the site of our town, before Simon Gratz achieved that distinction.

There can be but little doubt that it was Aaron Levy who opened the eyes of Simon Gratz to the possibilities of investments in this area. Not only did Simon Gratz have the land in this area which he had inherited from Levy, but he had also taken up much land on his own volition.



Old house on property where Theodore Gratz lived
Courtesy — Valley Citizen

In 1805, several years after acquiring his first land in the Lykens Valley, he laid out Gratz.

We must not think, however, that his newly-founded town was Simon Gratz's only love. Far from it. The Gratz Brothers' Indian trade was so successful that they were constantly extending it westward, particularly along the Ohio River. In Kentucky they established successful business ventures and became large landowners.

Simon Gratz's second great venture in real estate in this area came after 1825, the year coal was discovered on Short Mountain. He patented three hundred acres of this coal land, shrewdly selecting for his investment the land on either side of Bear Gap, north of Wiconisco, where coal could be obtained by the less expensive drift-mining procedure.

Closely associated with him in this undertaking, and part owner, was Henry Sheaffer of Halifax. As early as 1832 they had their drift in operation, and became the first producers of the nationally-known Lykens Valley Coal.

Naturally, their market was limited to supplying the sparse population of those days in the immediate area. Transportation to distant points was nonexistent. But they were men of higher caliber and wider vision. Realizing that they had a fortune literally underfoot they had used their influence with the General Assembly to have an act passed on April 7, 1830 permitting the formation of

a company to lay out a railroad between the Gap and Millersburg, from which point the coal could be ferried across the Susquehanna and shipped to the large markets via The Pennsylvania Canal.

The company which was organized under this Act was called The Lykens Valley Railroad and Coal Company. The owners were Simon Gratz, Samuel Richards, George H. Thompson, Charles R. Thompson, all of Philadelphia, and Henry Schreiner and Henry Sheaffer of Dauphin County.

Their railroad was rather poorly constructed. The usual ties were laid, but instead of iron rails they laid wooden stringers with strap iron nailed on the top. Their first motive power was not a steam locomotive but mules. Construction was completed in the spring of 1834, and the first coal transported on the new railroad was shipped from Millersburg by boat on April 19th.

The wooden rails could not stand the heavily-laden coal cars and by 1845 the railroad was worn out. A new road using the modern iron T-rail was begun in 1846 and completed in 1848. For power they got a sixteen-ton locomotive appropriately named the "Lycens Valley." Since the railroad along the river was not completed until the late 1850's this locomotive was brought up on the newly-constructed Wiconisco Canal to Millersburg.

Simon Gratz died on July 14, 1839, and did not live to see the present-day railroad. It is noteworthy, however, that ten years after his death his remaining friends on the board of directors still held him in such high esteem that they named their second locomotive, a twenty-five "tonner," the "Simon Gratz."

Not only were the Gratz Brothers successful in a commercial sense, but they were also great factors in the cultural life of Philadelphia. Simon was one of the founders of the Academy of the Fine Arts and for many years was a patron. Hyman, his brother and business partner, was a large contributor to Gratz College.

Simon owned an extensive country estate known as "Wellington." At that time it was

outside the city limits. Today it is that part of Philadelphia which lies between Girard and Columbia avenues, and from Broad Street west to Eighteenth Street.

An eminent Philadelphia lawyer, Horace Binney, once said of Simon Gratz: "If he had been a lawyer he would have been the head of the bar."

Two of the sons of Simon Gratz were prominent in this area. After his father's death in 1839 Theodore Gratz, the third son, who inherited considerable property in Gratz, took up his residence here. It was he who built the large brick home on the corner of Market and Pine Streets, which is now the property of Mr. and Mrs. George C. Adams. He, like his father before him, had



Home of Theodore Gratz, first Burgess, built about 1840. After Theodore's death in 1863 Daniel Good built a two-story addition on the rear

large interests in the coal industry, which made him quite prosperous.

Theodore was held in such high esteem not only in Gratz but over a large area that he was elected to the house of Representatives at Harrisburg for the 1846-1847 term. On the incorporation of the town on April 3, 1852 he was elected its first Chief Burgess. He died in Gratz in 1863 at the age of fifty-two.

The other son of Simon who had interests in the vicinity was Edward, the eldest son, who cast his lot on the other side of Short Mountain, although he, too, had large interests in Gratz and vicinity. It was Edward who laid out the town of Lykens in 1848 on a tract of 180 acres which his father had bought at a sheriff's sale in 1835. He died in 1869.

Edward's son David settled in Lykens and took over the Gratz estate there. He was married to Katherine Martz. Two of their sons and one daughter survive. Jacob, 74 years old, and Edward, 72, both retired, still live in Lykens. The surviving daughter Virginia Gratz Hackman lives in Maryland. They are the great-grandchildren of Simon.

Since neither Jacob nor Edward reared families the history of the Gratz family in our part of the state must come to an end in the not too distant future. For over a hundred years the Gratz family played a prominent part in the industrial and cultural progress of this community.

—Lloyd M. Bellis
C. H. Willier

Rebecca Gratz

In honor of Simon Gratz it is proper that we relate something about his sister, Rebecca Gratz. Rebecca was born in 1781 and died in 1869. She was never married.

Rebecca was a beautiful, talented and well-known philanthropist in Philadelphia. She became secretary for the Orphans' Society in 1819 and served in that capacity for forty years. She helped establish the first Jewish Sunday School, was secretary

of the Female Association for the Relief of Women and Children in Reduced Circumstances, and was the first president of the Jewish Foster Home and Orphan Asylum.

One of her best friends, Matilda Hoffman, was engaged to Washington Irving, the writer, but died of tuberculosis before the marriage took place. While nursing Matilda, Rebecca became well acquainted with



Rebecca Gratz from a portrait by Scully

Irving. Broken-hearted, Irving made a trip to England. While there he visited Sir Walter Scott, who was then planning the novel "Ivanhoe". Scott told Irving that one of the characters in the novel was to be a young Jewess of more than average beauty and charm and asked him to give him a word picture of one of his Jewess friends in America. Irving thereupon gave Scott a character sketch in great detail of Rebecca Gratz for use in his new novel.

When Scott had completed his new novel he sent Irving a copy with the query, "How do you like Rebecca?"

Rebecca accepted the acclaim with the expected modesty. Years later in a letter to her sister-in-law, Mrs. Benjamin Gratz, in Lexington, Kentucky, she acknowledged that she indeed was the prototype of the Rebecca in "Ivanhoe".

—C. H. Willier and Lloyd M. Bellis

Gratz and Lykens Township In 1875

Gratz is conveniently and pleasantly situated on the road leading from Millersburg to Reading and is 40 miles from Harrisburg. It contains three general stores, two boot and shoe stores, two cabinet makers' establishments, a tannery, one harness shop, two blacksmiths, two hotels, and two restaurants. It has also two churches, and one common school, graded into two departments. The various trades and some of the professions are fully represented. According to the census of 1870, Gratz had a population of 386. In 1875, it was estimated at 500. By reference to the returns of the Assessor in 1874, we find that it contained 104 taxables, and that the real and personal property was \$85,434.

There are some beautiful farms in Lykens Township; among others in 1874 on the Wiconisco was that of James Buchanan of Harrisburg, who built the Forge on the west side of the Wiconisco Creek at Berry's Mountain where the old covered wooden bridge crosses the creek.

This farm, which was in the original township of Lykens was the residence of Mr.

Lycans (Lykens), one of the first settlers in the valley, of whom we have an article in this book.

The population of Lykens Township according to the census of 1870, was 1246; of which 1235 were native born and eleven foreign, 1245 whites and one colored. By the assessor's return for 1874, there were 277 taxables, the assessed value of real and personal property according to the same authority was \$343,631. There were three churches and eight common schools. The inhabitants of Lykens Township are of a thrifty and industrious class, hence they enjoy the ordinary prosperity and contentment that those virtues inevitably secure.

The history of the discovery and subsequent mining of coal forms one of the most important features of the wealth and commercial worth of the county. The commencement of the coal operations was carried on by the Lykens Valley Coal Company. The first miners that came to work at these mines were two Englishmen, James Todourf, and William Hall.

The tract of land upon which coal was found consisted of 1500 or 1600 acres, and belonged to Mr. Thomas P. Cope of Philadelphia, who (it is said) bought it some time

before for the sum of 400 dollars, of which one-half of it was paid in store goods, and the balance of it in shoe buckles.

—From Dauphin County Atlas (1875)

We Almost Had A Railroad

Strangers to the Lykens Valley traveling Route 25 between Gratz and Millersburg will see, now to their right, then to their left, cuts and embankments which bear all the earmarks of an abandoned railroad. The older natives of the valley know that these evidences of interference with the natural terrain of the valley are the remains of the Midland Pennsylvania Railroad, the railroad that died a-borning.

The people of the valley realized for many years, that despite its great natural resources, the valley was handicapped tremendously in its development because of inadequate transportation. Farm produce not consumed locally had to be hauled to Good Springs, Oakdale (south of Loyaltown), or Elizabethville via horse and wagon. In years gone by vast quantities of mine timber, lumber, and bark for tanning were produced in our wooded areas. For these also no transportation was available besides four- or six-mule hauling. Coal consumed in the many homes, schools, churches and stores was usually hauled in one-ton lots from Rausch Gap or Wiconisco. Fertilizer and lime used by the farmers likewise had to be hauled long distances via teams and wagons.

It so happened that wealthy Philadelphians visiting the valley for the first time about 1905 literally fell in love with its beauty, saw its possibilities, and bestirred themselves to do something about this lack of transportation.

For several years a trolley line carrying both passengers and freight was under discussion, but, since legislation did not permit trolley lines to carry freight, this was tabled, the merits of a steam railroad were studied, and a decision to build a railroad was reached.

Accordingly, efforts were made to construct a railroad through the entire valley,

a distance of forty-four miles, connecting with the Pennsylvania at Millersburg and the Reading at Ashland, and bearing the name of the Midland Pennsylvania Railroad.

The project was slow in getting under way. Capitalists had to be found who were willing to invest money, stock had to be sold locally, rights of way had to be secured, and necessary surveys made, before actual construction work could begin.



Grading Midland Penna. Railroad
Courtesy — Clarion Heckert

During July, 1908, land was purchased in Millersburg for a terminal and a right of way was secured from farmers in the lower end of the valley. During 1909 much preliminary work was done farther up the valley in the matter of getting station sites, and in surmounting financial obstacles in the New York and Philadelphia money markets.

By spring of 1910 there was every indication of success. The contract for the actual construction was let early in the summer to the Pinkerton Construction Company, of Philadelphia. O. H. Bundy, the field engineer put in charge, with a crew of seventeen, pushed the survey of the road with vigor.

Ground for the new railroad was broken at Killinger in the field of F. W. Lenker,

south of the highway during the middle of September, 1910. Construction equipment began coming in rapidly, and a large force of men was put to the task of grading early in October. All of the grading was in the Killinger area, but by February 1, 1911, a new section was in progress between Curtin and Berrysburg.

Just before New Year's Day a steam shovel was brought to Millersburg to be used in the deep cuts. In April, 1911 this steam shovel began gnawing its way through the hills north of Oak Hill Cemetery for a cut thirty-five feet deep and a hundred feet wide at the top.



Another grading picture
Courtesy — C. Heckert

By June 1 the first ties had been laid. More laborers and teams were put to work daily, and grading was proceeding at about five places between Millersburg and what is now the Gratz airport.

Making the cut north of Millersburg proved more difficult and costly than the engineers had anticipated. Much blasting had

to be done and the results of the charges many times were disappointing. This handicapped the work farther up the line because they could not run a supply train over the graded portion to move materials farther up the right of way. Forty thousand ties and the rails for them were in Millersburg, and, because of the incomplete cut, had to be transported by teams to the graded portion of the road for putting into place.

During the summer of 1911 work was booming all along the line as far as Gratz. The girders for the bridge east of Berrysburg were put into place on September 19, plans were made for the Millersburg terminal, and arrangements made to do much of the remaining grading by the use of dinky locomotives.

And then the blow fell. The construction company could not meet the payroll late in September, and the men were furious. They all got their pay within a few days, but the crew was reduced by about seventy-five per cent. The big officials visited the valley and fired the Pinkerton Construction Company, claiming that they had at no time been pushing the work vigorously.

The Midland Company was reported to be dickering with a New York bond house for new financing and to be seeking a new contractor. The management confidently announced that regular trains would be running between Millersburg and Gratz by February, 1912. Late in November a new combination passenger and express car, gasoline-operated, was received at Millersburg. Other than that the project was dead.

MIDLAND PENNSYLVANIA R.R. CO. Two Day Excursion Ticket. MILLERSBURG —TO— GRATZ Subject to conditions named in contract and void if detached therefrom.		228
MIDLAND PENNSYLVANIA R.R. CO. Two Day Excursion Ticket. GRATZ to MILLERSBURG <small>In consideration of the reduced rate at which this ticket is sold, it will be good for passage only on date of issue, as stamped on back, or next succeeding date, unless sold on Saturday, in which case it will be good for use on the following Monday; and is not good to stop off en route.</small> <small>Liability for baggage limited to One Hundred Dollars.</small> <i>Chas. Cooper</i> Gen'l Supt.		228

On December 12, 1916, F. Park Campbell paid good money for this ticket
He is still waiting for his ride

It turned out, however, that dead was not the right word. Suspended animation would have been more fitting. In the ensuing years rumor was piled upon rumor. Among

all the rumors there was one fact, and it was a sad one. On February 12, 1913, Finley Acker, one of the vice presidents of the railroad company, died in Philadelphia. The

Midland had been largely his dream, and without exception the people of the valley felt that in his death they had lost a friend and benefactor.

The years 1914 and 1915 passed by without any developments. And 1916 did not begin auspiciously, because in March of that year, Joseph F. Romberger, of Berrysburg, the other vice president, also died. Prior to Mr. Romberger's death President Walter E. Harrington had resigned, so that now the organization was without a directing head.

During the summer of 1916 the management was reorganized and work was resumed on August 14. After five years' disuse much cleaning up and repairing of equipment were required. This work progressed rapidly. By September 1 there were seventy men employed laying track and grading. A new locomotive was purchased, and the passenger and freight cars, weather-beaten for five years, were scraped, repainted and repaired.

Track laying was completed beyond Killinger in a short time, and on October 24 the Midland ran two excursions from Millersburg to Killinger, carrying 324 round-trip passengers and fourteen one-way. Some of them went to be able to say, "I rode on the first train." Some went to enjoy a delicious chicken-corn soup supper served by the Pleasant Hill Grange. Most of them went for both reasons.

The laying of track proceeded apace. On Sunday, November 5, an excursion was run to a point above Curtin, and again a week later. The Berrysburg Band had to postpone an ox-roast scheduled for November 18 because they had become over-optimistic on the abilities of the track-laying crew. However, excursions were operated to a point near Berrysburg on Sundays during December. Daily train service was also being operated between Millersburg and this point near Berrysburg, and considerable freight was hauled each way, including mine timber and flour. Boyer and Weaver had established a coal yard at Killinger which was also served by the Midland. This service continued during most of the winter.

Again disaster struck. For the second time the Midland and their contractor clashed. The contractor filed suit against the company for failure to release certain bonds to him which caused him to suspend payments to his employes, whereupon the men quit work at the end of the year.

In April of 1917 work was supposed to be resumed on further construction, after the outstanding bills had been paid. Rails, switches, spikes and other paraphernalia kept arriving, and a turntable was built at Millersburg.

But construction did not resume. That month the United States became involved in World War I, which, with the usual wartime shortages, no doubt had something to do with the suspension of further construction work.

For about eighteen months there were no developments. Then a group of New York financiers acquired the franchise and holdings of the Midland. Wagons, carts, scoops and tools were collected and salvaged. Some of the construction equipment had resale value, but the elements had taken so much toll of many items that they were burned for the scrap iron.

About New Year's Day, 1919, the task of dismantling the track was undertaken. This had been sold to firms in Lebanon and Baltimore. All the railroad stock, consisting of a locomotive, combination passenger and express car, three flat cars and five box cars became the property of Leo Stern of New York.

That spring the offices on North Market Street, Millersburg, were converted into a double dwelling. The engine house and warehouse were remodeled and became the headquarters of the Acme Social Club. The American Legion building now occupies the site of these Midland properties.

Two years later a Philadelphia bank foreclosed on a mortgage held on the Midland, and all the railroad's stock, right of way, material, etc., were purchased by a committee of bondholders for the sum of \$33,000.

The rails and ties, which had been taken up several years before, had been stored in

Millersburg, and were now being sold to other railroads. The rolling stock was sent to the car shops of the Pennsylvania Railroad at Northumberland for repairs, and was then sold to other railroads. The railroad bridge east of Berrysburg was purchased by a Texas millionaire for use on the private railroad of his huge ranch. Guy L. Heckert moved the span in one section to Millersburg and placed it on flat cars for shipment to Texas.

Only the disposition of the right of way remained. Benjamin F. Moore, of Prospect Park, Pa., was the agent for the bondholders in the salvaging of the assets. He engaged James D. Bowman of Millersburg, as his agent for selling the right of way back to the original owners. This arrangement continued for several years. During this period most of the farmers and others over whose property the road passed redeemed their land. The ten-acre plot purchased for the station, round-house, and repair shops in Gratz is now in part the Gratz ball park. When about sixty of these tracts still remained unredeemed, Mr. Bowman bought these from Mr. Moore. Some of these were redeemed during the years since, but Mr. Bowman is still the owner of the right of way over approximately thirty farms whose owners have failed to clear their titles.

And so the big dream came to an end. In retrospect we can see what some shrewd investors sensed from the beginning; namely, that the steady increase in registrations of automobiles and trucks was bound to make the small railroads something for the history books in the same manner as the railroads a hundred years earlier had made the canals merely an interesting stretch of scenery at some places and the route of a modern concrete highway in others.

For the needed comic relief after this lengthy article here is a story of local interest. About 1932 Lester Forney, the man in Millersburg who places greetings under your windshield wiper if you overpark, was stationed in Greensburg as a member of the Pennsylvania State Police. One day one of his buddies picked up a man who was claimed to be a stock swindler. And he was. He was selling stock of the Midland Pennsylvania Railroad which was supposed to be in successful operation between Millersburg and Ashland! Les straightened him out on that one. And in colorful language!

—Lloyd M. Bellis

Note: The writer acknowledges his indebtedness to his good friends on the staff of the Millersburg Sentinel for the use of their files.

Gratz Banks

During the early period of 1909 the leading business men of this community discussed the great need of establishing a bank at Gratz, Pennsylvania. Considerable interest in this matter was shown by many business leaders and citizens of the town. Although Gratz was a small town, these men had confidence in themselves and great faith in the future of Gratztown. Abe Gross was the moving spirit and it was he who called together the Gratz community people who might be interested in such a move. The business people became so enthused that they organized the first bank in the valley east of Millersburg and Elizabethville.

First National Bank, Gratz, Pennsylvania, was incorporated July 9, 1909. It was located on the northeast corner of the square



Gratz National Bank with 1955 addition

in the John H. Miller home, now owned by Allen L. Shade. Esher Poticher of Williamstown, Pennsylvania, was the first cashier. He died in 1912. James M. Sheibley succeeded him till 1917. He lives at Lykens, Pennsylvania and is now in the insurance business. Ray H. Snyder became the cashier in 1917. John Leitzel, Klingerstown, Pa., was assistant cashier to J. M. Sheibley. In 1918 R. H. Snyder was called into United States Army service, Camp Lee, Virginia. A new cashier was appointed. Irvin M. Buffington, Gratz, Pa., was assistant cashier from 1917 to 1933. Tobias S. Klinger was the first bank president, and Irvin M. Buffington was the first vice-president. Directors were: John A. Willier, Frank Hartman, Abe Gross, Samuel Wiest, W. O. Leitzel, C. G. Updegrave, Jacob Boyer, Harvey Miller, Charles Hartman, and Robert C. Deibler.

The depression came in 1932. The money became scarce. Europe was broke, and too many banks had European business. In order to get the United States on a sound financial basis the banks had to be reorganized. A new Party came into power and a bank holiday was called.

The Gratz National Bank opened for business November 9, 1934. On the opening date the total deposits of the bank were \$228,758. The bank's capital structure consisted of \$25,000 preferred stock owned by Reconstruction Finance Corporation; \$25,000 common stock, and \$25,000 surplus paid by the local shareholders. There were 1000 shares of common stock issued at par value of \$25.00 per share. The shareholders however, paid \$50.00 per share, \$25.00 representing par value of common stock and \$25.00 paid to surplus.

The organizers and first directors of the bank were: George C. Adams, Benjamin A.

Weiss, Clarence E. Miller, Eston R. Klinger, and Harry R. Hoffner.

The first officers were:

George C. Adams, President; Clarence E. Miller, Vice President; Harold H. Umholtz, Cashier; Arthur Hoffner, Assistant Cashier.

During 1944 the preferred stock was paid in full and a stock dividend issued to the common shareholders. Each shareholder received $\frac{3}{4}$ share of common stock for each original share held. An additional $\frac{1}{4}$ share could be purchased at a cost of \$6.25.

At the present time (December 1955) a new addition is being built to the old bank building. The size of the addition is 20x42. The first floor provides three additional rooms and two lavatories. The second floor consists of two large rooms. The total deposits at the present time are \$1,403,250. Common stock \$50,000. Surplus and undivided profits \$112,900.

The present directors are:

George C. Adams, Benjamin A. Weiss, John L. Mauser, L. Allen Kimmel, Stanford O. Smeltz.

The present officers are:

George C. Adams, President; Benjamin A. Weiss, Vice President; Harold H. Umholtz, Cashier; Harry W. Mayer, Assistant Cashier.

The report of condition of the new bank at the close of business on December 31, 1954 is as follows: Total assets—\$1,483,237.06. Liabilities total \$1,334,397.95. Capital stock: Common stock total par \$50,000.00. Surplus \$50,000.00. Undivided profits \$48,839.91. Total liabilities and capital accounts \$1,483,237.06; Assets pledged or assigned to secure Liabilities \$114,747.75.

Big Fire At Gratz

Early on Tuesday morning, November 3, 1924, the whole town of Gratz, 600 population, was threatened when the Union House in the center of the borough, Smith's Restaurant and Moving Picture Hall, the stables along the Alley, Garage, and seven barns,

garage operated by Earl and Russell Hoffman, George Hepler's two barns with more than 175 tons of hay and Miller Brothers barn with 450 bushels of wheat went up in smoke.



Union House about 1910. Probably a Fair Day scene—Shed in foreground

Though the origin of the fire is not known, there are some who suspected incendiarism. Thomas Kerstetter was the proprietor of the hotel. The hotel was owned by George Adams, for which he had paid \$30,000. The family and one salesman were fast asleep when the flames were first seen at the icehouse by Pat Wise. This was

a new experience for Gratz. If they would have used their heads it could have been saved; but their first thought was for the families, who were not easily aroused with their children, Thomas and Bobbie, and the salesman. Till they got them awake the fire was too far advanced to be put out by the bucket brigade. By this time a number



After the Big Fire in 1924—This was site of hotel, hotel shed and Miller Brothers' barn. Building on left is Miller Brothers' Store. Taken from almost the same place as the preceding picture



After the 1924 Fire—Site of Miller Brothers barn and hotel shed

of hunters who had come from Valley View also saw the fire in the ice-house and sounded the alarm by discharging their guns and blowing their auto horns. The fire started shortly after 1 a. m. when people were in their first sleep.

The fire spread north to the hotel and south to the barn or shed. The reflection in the sky was seen for a distance of 25 miles. A veritable gale from the northwest fanned the flames, but the bucket brigade worked hard to save property across the Alley, which was successful only for a while, for they had to work in the sparks and heat of fire driven toward them by the wind.

The Elizabethtown operator, Mrs. Laura Keiter, the night operator, was on the job. By her promptness assistance from the Elizabethtown, Wiconisco, Lykens, Valley View and Millersburg fire companies was soon on

the way. Out of 33 phones in Gratz, two were in service for some time. The wires were burned off and some were cut to prevent them from getting in contact with the electric wires.

By two o'clock the whole town seemed to be doomed, for the fire was spreading from shed to barns across Center Street and the Alley. A call was sent to Harrisburg, and about four o'clock, news reached Gratz that a special train of two coaches and two flat cars, and fifty men of the Good Will, Hope, Friendship, and Mt. Pleasant fire companies were on the way to Millersburg. The flames were under control when this word came, and the call for Harrisburg was annulled.

The fire companies combined their forces on the fire that burned the Ira Rothermel, George Umholtz, and Daniel Koppenhaver barns. Since there was a wide space between the Koppenhaver barn and the Harvey Fidler barn the firemen succeeded in halting the fire at that point. The properties east and west of the hotel on Main Street were saved by the Elizabethtown and Wiconisco fire trucks. The bucket brigade was working hard to save property from flaming pieces of wood. A haystack on a farm on the eastern outskirts of town was set afire by a flaming piece of wood carried by the high wind.

Harry Smith and his family had helped to get the clothing and furniture out of the



View of South Center Street after 1924 fire
Ruins of Smith's home and restaurant

hotel. When this was accomplished, they were informed that their house also was on fire, and they lost everything—home, furniture, restaurant and movie house.

So the fire bucket brigade went out of date, and the Fire Company was formed that fall.

—C. H. Willier

Other Gratz Fires

H. B. Ferree, stable destroyed, November 1872; Edmond Umholtz, house damage, winter of 1876; Mrs. Louis Faust, stable destroyed 1880; Isaac Hepler, storehouse damaged (lightning) 1881; R. B. Dunkelberger and John C. Saltzer, house damaged January 26, 1889; J. J. Buffington, saddle shop damaged, December 24, 1892; Charles Hess, barn destroyed (lightning) August 4, 1897; school house damaged by fire started by an overheated flue; Jacob Hoffman, barn destroyed. Gratz had its first fire truck to check this fire. William Brosius' house on fire twice

and saved by Fire Company. School house was on fire the second time and saved, not much damage.

The largest of the Gratz fires before the big one of 1924 was the one on the night of May 1, 1886. In this fire the store and residence of George S. Klinger and Daniel S. Klinger standing on the site of the present Searer's store and the hotel operated by Daniel C. Blyler on the Community Center site were completely laid waste.

—C. H. Willier

Gratz Water Supply Company

The Gratz Water Supply Company was incorporated September 1925. The first board of directors was: Jacob M. Willier, H. W. Hess, Charles Zerfing, M. E. Klinger, Harry A. Umholtz, Newton Miller, Fred Steely, William Brosius, Jay A. Brosius, R. H. Snyder.

The authorized capital stock was \$25,000.00, divided into 250 shares of the par

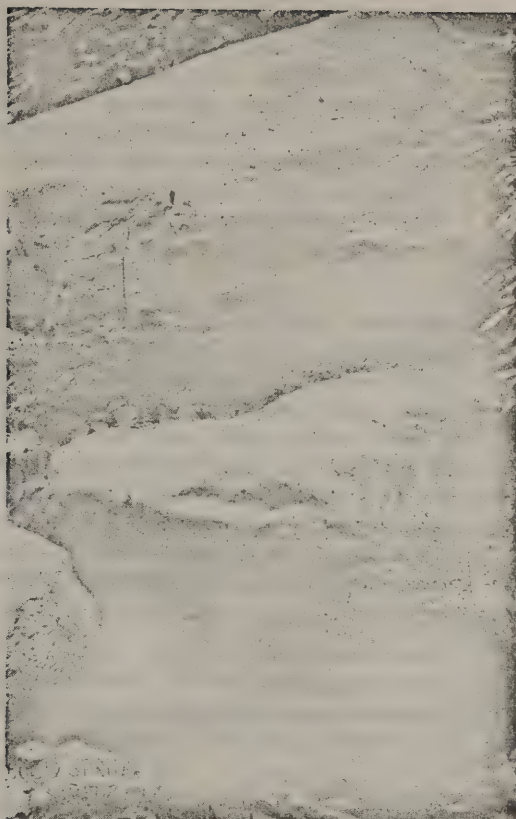
value of \$100.00. The maximum outstanding at any time since organization has been 200 shares or \$20,000.00. The balance of 50 shares was never sold or issued.

An attempt had been made in 1912 to organize a Water Company for Gratz, but no water service was ever started. After the disastrous fire of 1924, a group of citizens again started a movement to organize a water company, and the final result was the organization of Gratz Water Supply Company. Water service was furnished starting 1926, and the Company has gradually increased its number of consumers, until today practically every house in town is a consumer. Prior to the organization of the Company, the only water available in town was from drilled and dug wells, which every family had. Many of these wells have now been turned into cesspools, and there are very few wells in town from which sanitary water can be obtained.

The source of water supply is obtained from a spring located south of the town of Gratz, at the base of Short Mountain. The spring has been known for generations as the "Cold Spring." From the spring the water is piped by gravity flow to a reservoir,



The Water Tank



Cold Spring—source of Borough water supply

located about mid-way between the spring and the town. From the reservoir it is pumped to an elevated steel tank located at the alley corner of Spruce and Market streets. The tank has a 100,000 gallon storage capacity. This tank furnishes a reserve supply of water in case of fire, and also furnishes the pressure to force the water through the mains to the consumers.

The water has always tested pure and chemicals have never been added. The present attendant at the pump station is William E. Phillips.

The first officers of the Company were: J. M. Willier, President; H. W. Hess, Vice President; R. H. Snyder, Secretary; Charles Zerfing, Treasurer.

The officers as of this date are: Benjamin A. Weiss, President; Jay A. Brosius, Vice President; William E. Phillips, Treasurer; Harold H. Umholtz, Secretary.

The present members of the board of directors are: Benjam A. Weiss, Jay A. Brosius, William E. Phillips, Herbert H. Hartman, W. A. Hess, George Hartman, Ira Rothermel.

—Harold H. Umholtz

Electric Lights Come To Gratz

Spurred on by the Borough Council, the Gratz Electric Company was organized in 1921. After a thorough study of the problems involved, the company sold stock locally and entered into an agreement with the Lykens Light and Power Company to provide the current, the Gratz lines to be connected with the latter's lines at Loyalton. Ed Stockbridge, electrical contractor of Millersburg, was engaged to build the line between Loyalton and Gratz.

Mr. Stockbridge began construction of the line in the fall of 1921, and by Christmas of that year had placed all the poles. These first poles were made from chestnut trees killed by the blight some years earlier.

The installation of transformers and the stringing of wires proceeded during the winter months when the weather permitted, and

the current was turned on during the first week of March, 1922. There was great rejoicing in the town. The church bells were rung, automobile horns blown, and the most excited men had to express their exuberance of joy by tossing their hats into the air. There were about thirty houses wired at that time.

The Gratz Electric Company did not enjoy a long existence. During the early 1920's the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company extended its domain by buying up virtually all the small electric companies in this part of the state. After about two years as a separate entity, the Gratz Electric Company sold out to P. P. & L. The shareholders in the Gratz Electric Company received three dollars for every two dollars invested.

Lloyd M. Bellis

Social and Cultural Events of the Past

Our middle-aged and older readers will look back to the social and cultural events of the past with more than a little nostalgia. With the slow means of transportation available in the past people were confined to those events which were held in the immediate area and which were frequently of their own making.

The automobile revolutionized transportation. People became mobile. No longer were they limited to their own valley for a little recreation and surcease from their daily toil. The gas buggy gave them a chance to get away from the confines of their immediate vicinity, and they took advantage of the opportunity. The average person now living has been in as many states as his grandfather had been in counties, or even townships.

This greater ease of travel has many points in its favor. No one in his right mind would put up an argument for a return of the good, old days. The gay nineties are now a part of history.

Nevertheless, no one can deny that this revolution in transportation has not sounded the death knell of many of our social and cultural events, some of which had high intrinsic value. Believing that some of these should be kept from becoming mere names for the young people today, as well as the unborn generations, the writer has in his humble way tried to put these on the record by giving a brief account of at least some of them.

1. Literary Societies

These were held in the Gratz High School as well as in the rural schools of Lykens Township. The high school at times tried to adhere to a schedule of one evening meeting a month. In general, both in the borough and the township their number depended very largely on the whim of the teacher and the amount of talent available.

The programs rendered were usually composed of songs, piano selections, recitations, dialogues, referred questions and debates. Generally speaking the pupils of the

particular school put on the whole program with the exception of the debate. The participants in the debates were usually the teachers of the borough and the township. Many a young man now prominent in the ministry, the law, or in other walks of life got his first experience in public speaking in these country literary societies.

After the program was rendered the "big" boys and girls played games on the school grounds for an hour or more. And let me tell you, younger people, that your grandma and grandpa were awful schmutzers. They were romantic as all get out, and took no stock in the germ theory or that kissing spreads disease. The games were all kissing games. The ones most frequently played were ring-tag and "Three Little Girls Were Skating Well", "Oh! Susie Owl."

After about an hour or so of these high-fangled shenanigans most of the boys had dates to walk home with any object of their affections. Many men still living got their wives in this manner.

2. The Spelling Bee

On an even keel with the Literary Society was the Spelling Bee. These were more common in the country schools than in the borough schools. After duly studying the Lancaster almanac to determine a good moonlight night the teacher picked a date, announced it in school, and otherwise spread the good tidings asking all and sundry to assemble at his school for a spelling bee.

On the appointed evening the younger people, usually only the unmarried, assembled at the school, and when the crowd was large enough the evening's festivities began. Usually the song-books were distributed, and after a little bit of group singing, two people were selected to choose the competing sides. These would take turns in picking the members of their teams. Each one chosen would take his place along the wall, the two sides lining up on opposite sides of the room.

When this preliminary had been attended to, the teacher began dictating the

words, beginning at the head end of each side. If a word was misspelled by a person he was said to be "spelled down", and had to drop out of the contest; the word which had been misspelled was given to the corresponding person on the other side, and so on until the word was spelled correctly. Then a new word was given.

The person dictating the words tried to be generous and give only words that were in general use so as to give everyone at least a fighting chance. At the same time he was always prepared to lay aside his BB gun and bring forth the heavy artillery. When the session seemed to get too long or the crowd became restless he might fire the big shells; such as, supersede, eleemosynary, mnemonics, Philippine, Filipino, Cincinnati, syzygy, anesthesia, meningitis, ptialin, separate, psychology and neurasthenia. Words of this character usually had the desired effect, and when everybody was spelled down, a recess was called.

Frequently the door was not quite large enough for the crowd to go out to play ring tag, or ring schnebly, as some called it. After about a twenty-minute recess another session was held.

Sometimes, as a variation, only the first word was dictated to one of those at the head of the line. The person on the other side now had to spell a word beginning with the last letter of the previously spelled word, and so on. The trick here of course was to spell a word ending in the letter x. Since no word could be used more than once, this could become pretty rough. Nearly everybody knew one or two words beginning with an x, but, if those had already been used, it was just too bad.

The teachers always tried not to over-emphasize the cultural side, and allowed the young folks plenty of time for the social session, which was just like that of the Literary Society.

3. Sleighing Parties

In bygone years sleighing parties were another form of amusement for the younger folks. Because of the uncertainty of the weather these had to be organized at short

notice. If planned too far ahead there might not be snow on the selected evening. Usually several of the hucksters who had large sleighs and mules which were in condition would be rounded up one evening for a party the following evening. Hotels at a distance of eight or ten miles would then be called on the phone until one was found that could and would entertain the crowd. The word was then spread among the gang to be on deck at a certain place the following evening.

The teamsters came to the designated point of departure. The driver had the sleigh liberally supplied with straw and blankets. Individuals in the party would bring robes and blankets to further assure some degree of warmth. There were no seats. Along either side of the box the members sat in the straw and extended their feet toward the other side. To be sure each boy saw to it that he was seated next to the object of his affections.

After liberally covering themselves the party would, amid many shouts and much laughter, set out for their destination. Maybe it was Rough and Ready, Elizabethville, Valley View or Klingerstown. Enroute there was much singing and boisterousness. There always was at least one very quiet couple, for unexplained reasons.

Having arrived at the hotel the folks made at least some pretense of picking the straw off their clothes, entered the hotel, and literally took over the place. Usually the rugs were removed from the floor of the hotel parlor for square dancing, and games were also played. Some of these were **Upset the Fruit Basket, Postoffice, Blind Man's Bluff, Charades and Heavy, Heavy, What Hangs Over, Pleased or Displeased.**

Some time during the night a typical country hotel meal was served.

The trip home at a late hour of the night was pretty much of a repetition there, except there were now more quiet couples. Again for reasons unexplained.

4. Hay Rides

The hay ride was the twin brother of the sleighing party. The chief differences were that the hay ride was taken during the sum-

mer and on a hay wagon, the old-fashioned, deep hay ladders of which had been filled with hay well tramped down. In other details it was the summer version of the winter sleighing party.

5. Wedding Serenades

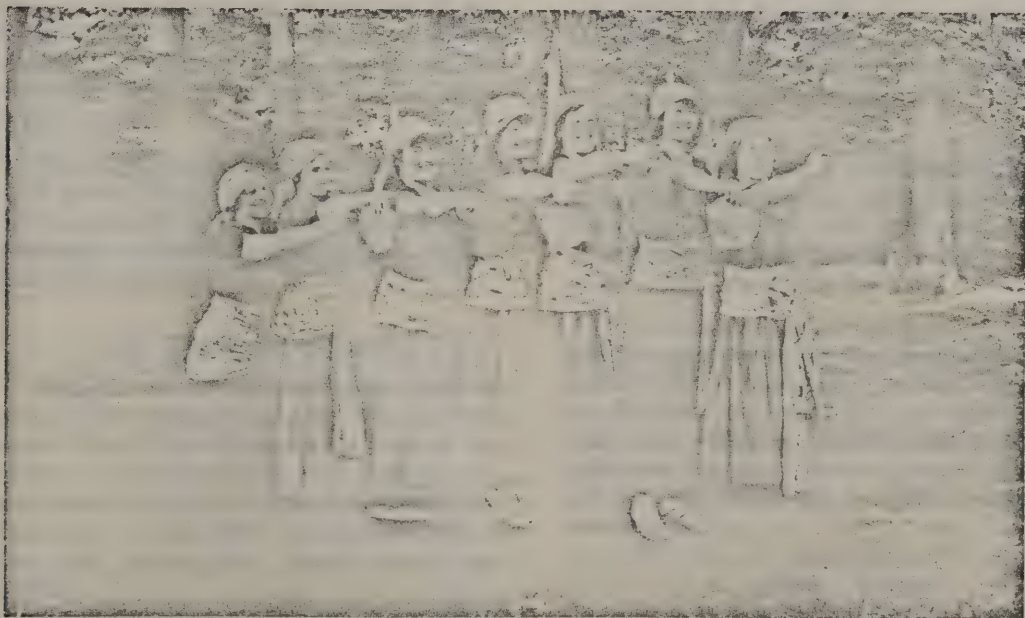
This was a community event which was a must until about the time of the First World War. Whenever a couple in the neighborhood got married they could expect to get a good belling or "robblerei". Some amateur Sherlock Holmes in the neighborhood would shadow the groom a night or two after the wedding, and, when he had trailed him to his new wife's home, would notify the others, and preparations were quickly made to give them the proper initiation into matrimony.

It was not long before the bride's home was surrounded by all the young men of the neighborhood, and plenty of girls, too, for that matter. Then the fun began. Each one came supplied with some noise-making equipment. There were dishpans, cowbells, dinner-bells, horns, old drums, and many other devices with which a din could be created.

The king of all the noise makers was an old engine boiler which some of the fellows "misappropriated" one night. This they mounted on a cart which could be readily attached to a buggy, if the home of the bride was out of town. C. U. Kratzer made two heavy iron rods resembling furnace pokers, except that the end was straight. With one man at either side rotating one of these rods in the boiler, and as many as a dozen men beating the outside of the boiler with heavy hammers at the same time, a veritable ear-drum-bursting noise was created. This tumultuous din, aided by the lesser noises of horns, dishpans, etc., soon made the bride and groom beg for mercy. Usually the young couple had had a hunch that such a serenade was in the making, and had prepared themselves with plenty of refreshments. Some of the fellows felt short-changed if a keg of beer was not forthcoming in addition to cakes, cigars, cider, etc.

6. Dramatic Clubs

During the twenty odd years that Smith's Hall was standing much interest was manifested in dramatics. Even before that the lower room of the high school building, then



The Zingarella Girls from a play in 1916—Left to right: Elda Blyler, Ella Hartman, Blanche Hepler, Ann Hepler, Anne Coleman, Mary Zerfing and Eva Blyler

not in use for school purposes, was the scene of these amateur plays.

About every year at least one home talent play was produced, usually for the benefit of the schools, but sometimes for some church or similar organization. Frequently the high school principal was the coach.

The older pupils in the high school as well as other people in the town who had some talent were the members of the cast.

Some of the plays produced were: "The Cuban Spy," "Down in Dixie," "The Honor of a Cowboy," "Higbee of Harvard," "Hezekiah's Country Store," "Hezekiah's Picnic," "Six Wives on a Rampage," and "Aaron Slick."

Quite frequently after presenting the play in Gratz for two or three nights the troupe presented their play in some of the neighboring towns.

7. The Chautauqua

This was another of the social and cultural events of the community. The Chautauqua Movement, which had its origin in the Middle West, hit the East in 1912. Gratz had its first meeting for three days in February, 1914. All of the sessions presented excellent programs made up of musical numbers, lectures or timely topics, plays, magic, etc.

These programs were continued yearly until World War I. After the war they were again resumed in 1920, but because of the destruction of Smith's Hall by fire in 1924, had to be discontinued.

8. The Medicine Show

Just as sure as hay-making and harvest came every summer so did the medicine show. Every year there was a week of this in town. Sometimes it was held on the lawn south of Smith's Hall, occasionally on the square at the hotel, and at least once in the field where John Reed's house now stands.

The program was decidedly the lightweight type, consisting of sleight-of-hand

tricks, vaudeville sketches, singing to the accompaniment of a guitar, etc. This all served the purpose of getting and holding the audience.

The personnel was limited to the "Doctor" and at the most to two or three others. Sometimes the "Doctor" wore Indian regalia, and sometimes a high silk hat to look the part. To be successful he had to be a good elocutionist. This he usually was. When he began to speak he covered the whole anatomy. There were people who had done a hard day's work on the farm, had eaten a hearty supper, and, after listening to the "Doctor's" eloquent discourse, discovered that they were suffering from all the ailments the human flesh is heir to.

Fortunately, relief was in sight. For the small price of fifty cents a bottle, three for a dollar, the "Doctor" could cure you of many ailments. The panacea he was so happy to let you have for almost nothing would cure you from the top of your head to the soles of your feet; verily, everything from dandruff to ingrown toe nails.

And people were cured! These ailments which had suddenly overtaken them left just as quickly when they began taking the nostrum from the bottle, even though it likely was only a whiskey-colored and licorice-flavored water. The power of suggestion is just as great in curing ailments as it is in contracting them.

The "Doctor" was a combination of physician and veterinarian, since all his medicines were good for man and beast. Some of us will recall how "Doctor" Sweigard used to say, "Sis gute f'r die Sei aw."

After a week's stand the show moved on, the "Doctor" happy in the thought that his various elixirs had given ailing humanity the lift they needed for the year ahead. By that time suffering manhood again needed help, and the good "Doctor" would not forget to come back and renovate people for another year.

9. Quilting Parties

Quilting parties were the social outlet for the women for many generations. Nearly

every housewife would seek diversion by buying yards of differently-colored cloth, cutting it into small pieces, and then spending laborious hours sewing these small patches together again into a piece large enough to be a bed cover. To be sure this finished product was something different. It had become, like Joseph's Coat, a thing of many colors, and likewise of an attractive pattern.

When this patching, as the women called it, was done it was time to set a date for the quilting of this prospective bed cover or "deppich." In every neighborhood there were several of the necessary frames. The woman who was giving the quilting party would properly sew the cover to be quilted into the frame the day before the date set for the party.

The following morning her guests would drop in any convenient time and begin stitching top and bottom together. Those women who had to get the children off to school would arrive last, and then, seated around the frame on all four sides, they attacked the task with a vengeance.

The hostess meanwhile was busy in the kitchen preparing a sumptuous meal for her volunteer laborers. When mealtime arrived every woman satiated her appetite, and, not belonging to a union, was back on the job without the benefit of a blow of the whistle. By diligent toil they got the quilt completed in one day. Some had to leave early to have hot water ready for a husband coming home from the mines; but this made no difference, for by that time the quilt had been rolled up so far on two sides that there was not room for everybody.

Let me not give the impression that these parties were any Quaker meetings. Far from it. Every woman made sure she arrived with her conversational battery at full charge. And, since each one had to let go at the same time and without any cessation, the din at many parties was beyond description.

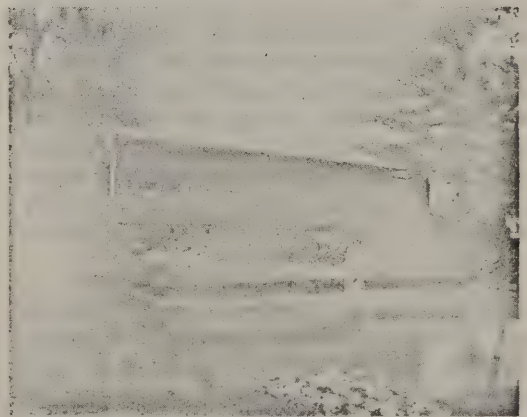
When the quilt was finished and the time for the return home had arrived each woman might have been physically weary, but she had been spiritually and emotionally

uplifted. The record does not show that the quilters ever solved any great national or international problem. On the other hand, none of them went home without being thoroughly briefed on all the neighborhood gossip. They knew what husband was beating his wife, who was getting married, and where the stork was going to pay his next visit in the neighborhood.

All glory and honor to these quilters! Many of us cherish some of the masterpieces of this craft done by hands which ceased plying the needle many, many years ago.

10. Old-Time Sunday School Picnics

There are picnics and picnics. But the Old-Time Sunday School picnic was in a class by itself. People today are too busy or too pre-occupied to give the time to arrange for these monster celebrations.



Red Bridge
Scene of many a Sunday School picnic

While these picnics were sponsored by Sunday Schools they were not limited to the membership. They were great community homecomings; in fact great care was exercised in selecting the date so that there was no conflict in dates with another Sunday School in the same area, thereby cutting down the attendance at each picnic. The aim was to have a big picnic, with both a Capital B and P.

After the date had been set about five or six of the young men and women were given

pass books to solicit funds to defray the expense of the picnic.

The families belonging to the church contributed, and so did merchants, bakers, salesmen, and many others. These collectors always had an undeclared contest among themselves, each one trying to bring in most money.

Picnic day was not one day but at least three for the fathers and mothers. To the fathers fell the task of cleaning up the grove; provide seating, which was usually planks laid at right angles across logs which had previously been placed in a parallel position about six or eight feet apart; building the huge picnic table, which the uninitiated of today would mistake for a gigantic bingo stand; and construct a speaker's platform, which was carefully roofed with spruce or hemlock branches.

The mothers and grown daughters spent two or three days preparing all kinds of food in their homes. Chickens were killed and prepared, country ham was fried, pies and huge layer cakes had to be baked. In addition to all this each woman ransacked her brains to think of all the articles of food that might delight the palate of her guests at the picnic.

Several women in the neighborhood prepared a barrel of root beer, and not infrequently another barrel of spruce beer for use at each one's table. Store cheese and Lebanon bologna were purchased with some of the solicited funds and were available for use on every family's table.

On picnic day the Sunday School pupils assembled at the church at about ten o'clock, and, led by the band, marched to the grove. On arriving there they sat on the plank seats and participated in exercises which included the singing of hymns, an address by one of the pastors and music by the band.

When the hour of twelve had arrived the pastors, band members, and the members of the Sunday School marched to the table. After each pupil was placed outsiders would take the remaining places. There was no formality. As people vacated places others stepped up to eat.

About two o'clock there was another band concert and speeches and oftentimes other entertainment. This was patronized by adults mostly, since the children had been excused at noon.

In some adjacent field there was frequently a ball game in progress shortly after dinner. Other activities were also on the calendar. One of these activities was a cakewalk or two.

Since the cakewalk seems to be a matter of history a short description seems necessary. To take part in a cakewalk one had to buy a ten-cent ticket which was good for two people. At the appointed time the ticket holders would line up and start marching around in a circle by twos. At one place a strip of wood about four feet long was laid across the line of march. Each couple, when coming to the board, stepped on it, and was a little hesitant about stepping off, for a short distance away was the bass drummer of the band with his back turned ready to give the drum one resounding whack. The couple who had their feet on the board when the drum was struck was declared the winner. There was great glory in being the winner, but little gain, for good manners dictated that the cake be cut and all participants be given some. History does not record of anyone's overeating at a cakewalk.

Another old favorite was the guess cake contest. Here is where the girls of marriageable age shone in the belief that the way to a man's heart is via his stomach. When baking this cake our husband-hunting girl would bake some foreign object into one layer of the cake.

Chances at ten cents each were sold to people with a special drive on marriageable males. Usually a clue was given as to what was in the cake: something to eat, something to wear, made of metal, made of wood, etc. Every buyer of chances had his name recorded in a pass book with his guess included. The correct guesser of course won the cake. If no one was correct the cake would still be divided. All money received for the guess cake as well as the cakewalk went into the Sunday School treasury.

Busy all day long was the refreshment stand. Here ice cream, soda pop, bologna, candy, cigars, watermelon and similar items were sold. All profits from this also went into the Sunday School treasury.

Some Sunday Schools arranged an evening program of entertainment, others did not. Whether there was an evening program or not the older boys and girls were busy with their games of ring tag, three-on-a-block, etc.

The Sunday School picnic was the red letter day of the year. Some people attended their own and maybe one other. Other people attended a picnic every Saturday during the season, which lasted from the middle of July to the early part of September.

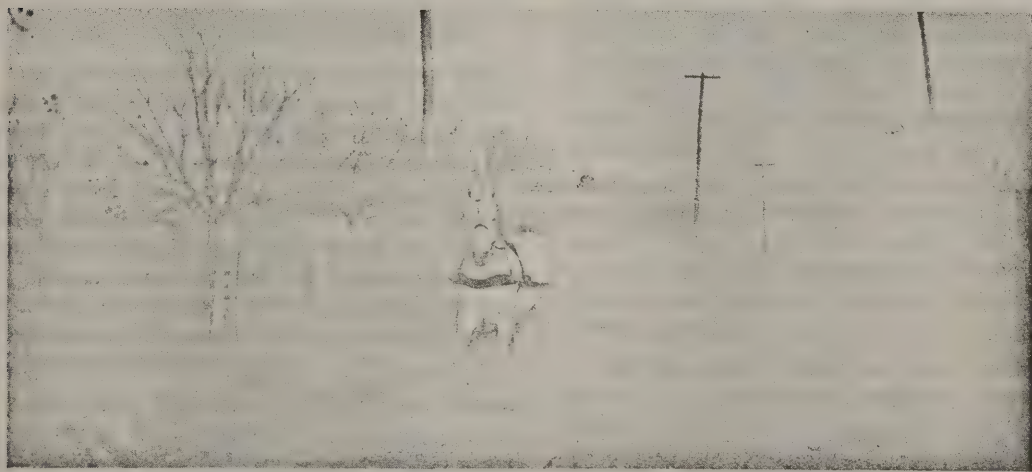
Conclusion

These then were some of the events which people had by way of recreation and a little respite from their daily toil. Some of these were a combination of recreation and the accomplishment of some useful work. Some others that might have been added to the list were barn-raising, country butcherings, snitzing parties, and husking-bees.

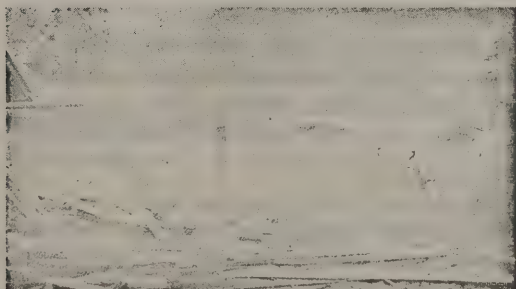
But our mode of living has changed. The advent of the movies, radio, amusement parks, television, and, over and above all, the automobile have changed life so much that the younger generation hardly know what the older people mean when they speak of the good old days.

—Lloyd M. Bellis.

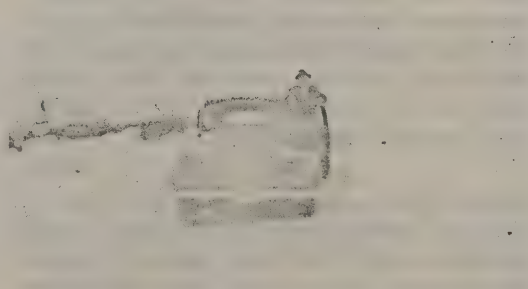
SCENES ABOUT THE TOWN



The 1908 version of the modern "cowboy." Harry Buffington and Harvey Bellis.
David Bellis' apple orchard in background.



Boiler explosion at Kessler's cider press at Erdman, 1907. One killed.



Who remembers big snowfall in January, 1944?
C. H. Willier on running board south of Shepley's School.

PART III

SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

The Story Of Our Schools

Education in the Lykens Valley in the early days was largely a hit-and-miss affair, as indeed it was in the rural areas throughout the whole state. Public education as we know it today was then non-existent. Indeed, many parents had no education themselves, and did not see the need of it for their children.

Most of our early settlers were the offspring of people who were several generations removed from Europe, and they themselves had not had the opportunity to acquire much education in the sparsely settled wilderness of south-eastern Pennsylvania.

If one peruses old deeds and other documents he will learn with dismay how few people could even write their names. On deeds all too frequently the conveyancer, or some other person who could write, had to write the grantor's name at the proper place, and then have the grantor make the letter X between his first and last names to make it a legal signature. Over the X the one who had signed the grantor's name would write "His" and below it "mark".

However, there were exceptions. Some people had come directly from Germany, or some other European country, where they had acquired a fair education, and they themselves taught their children, and sent them to the local school, if one was available.

Also there were others who realized that their own lack of education was a handicap, and made every possible effort to keep their children from suffering from the same disadvantage.

For these reasons there was always a demand in every community for a school. Many times the school was an appendage of the church, the school being conducted in the place of worship. Just as frequently it was the other way round, and services of

worship were held in the schoolhouse. We do know that a school was held in Hoffman's Church and also one in Coleman's Church. Very likely most of our oldest churches were used for the same purpose.

To the best of our knowledge the first schoolhouse in Gratz was built in 1822 on the lot where the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Claude S. Buffington now stands. According to tradition it was built by Levi Buffington, who had built Hoffman's Church in 1771. The writer accepts this claim with the proverbial grain of salt. It hardly seems possible that a man who had mastered the building trade sufficiently well to be entrusted with the erection of a church in 1771 should still be in the building trade fifty-one years later.

The course of study of these early schools was limited to "readin', 'ritin', and 'rithmetic." The term was usually for three months, and the parents had to pay the tuition, and purchase the books, slates, and other essentials.

In the early 1800's at three different sessions of the General Assembly laws were passed permitting the payment from public funds for the education of the children of poor families. These schools soon acquired the nickname of "pauper schools." Our Pennsylvania Dutch ancestors were much too proud to appear before the county commissioners and pauperize themselves by declaring that they were unable to pay for the education of their children. As a result many a worthy boy and girl remained illiterate.

For the most part these early schools were taught by itinerant school teachers, many of whom had very little education. Some had come direct from Germany and could not read nor speak the English language.



Specimen of Pen Work by Andrew J. Williard, Schoolteacher

Usually when some roving school-master appeared in a community the parents, many of whom could not read, would send him to the doctor or minister, who would have him read a few paragraphs either in English or German, ask him to solve several arithmetic problems, and pronto, he was hired.

It is a matter of record that in 1820 when Francis Rawn Shunk, who later was governor of Pennsylvania (1845-1848), was a young man he was hired to be the teacher of the school at Trappe, near Norristown, without ever having spent a single day in school himself.

Frequently these early teachers organized their own subscription schools. In these subscription schools the rate of tuition was exceedingly low. In 1834, just before free schools came into being, the rate of tuition was $2\frac{1}{4}$ cents per day. This fact we know from the docket of Squire Leonard Reedy, before whom two teachers had to bring several parents to collect even this small amount.

Occasionally these teachers found lean pickings in a community, and would migrate to what seemed likely to be greener pastures. As a result a community might go for a year or two without any school at all until another itinerant pedagogue would appear who was willing to undertake the gamble.

After the enactment of the Free School Law in 1834, improvements were made, but rather slowly. True, public schools were provided, but the standards were not high. For the first twenty years there still was not even a minimum standard that one had to meet to become a teacher. It remained a wide-open field for anyone who felt the call to teach. A prospective teacher did not have to produce a certificate until after 1854, the year the office of County Superintendent of Schools was created.

Neither had the Free School Act provided for a minimum-length term, nor did it make school attendance compulsory. Schools in the rural areas were open about three months of the year. And since there was no compulsory school attendance law, the children from some homes did not attend school at all, and other children attended sporadically.

In 1849 the minimum term was set at four months. By 1887 a six-month term was required. This was increased to seven months in 1899. In 1922 an eight-month term became the minimum, and since the fall of 1941 every public school in the Commonwealth must remain open 180 days.

Attendance requirements also have been raised. Fifty years ago pupils were required to attend ninety-eight days, seventy per cent of the 140-day term, but the law was seldom enforced. Today no pupil is legally allowed to miss more than three days per term except for illness or other valid excuse.

Over the years qualifications of teachers have been gradually increased until today no teacher may enter the profession who has not received four years' training beyond high school.

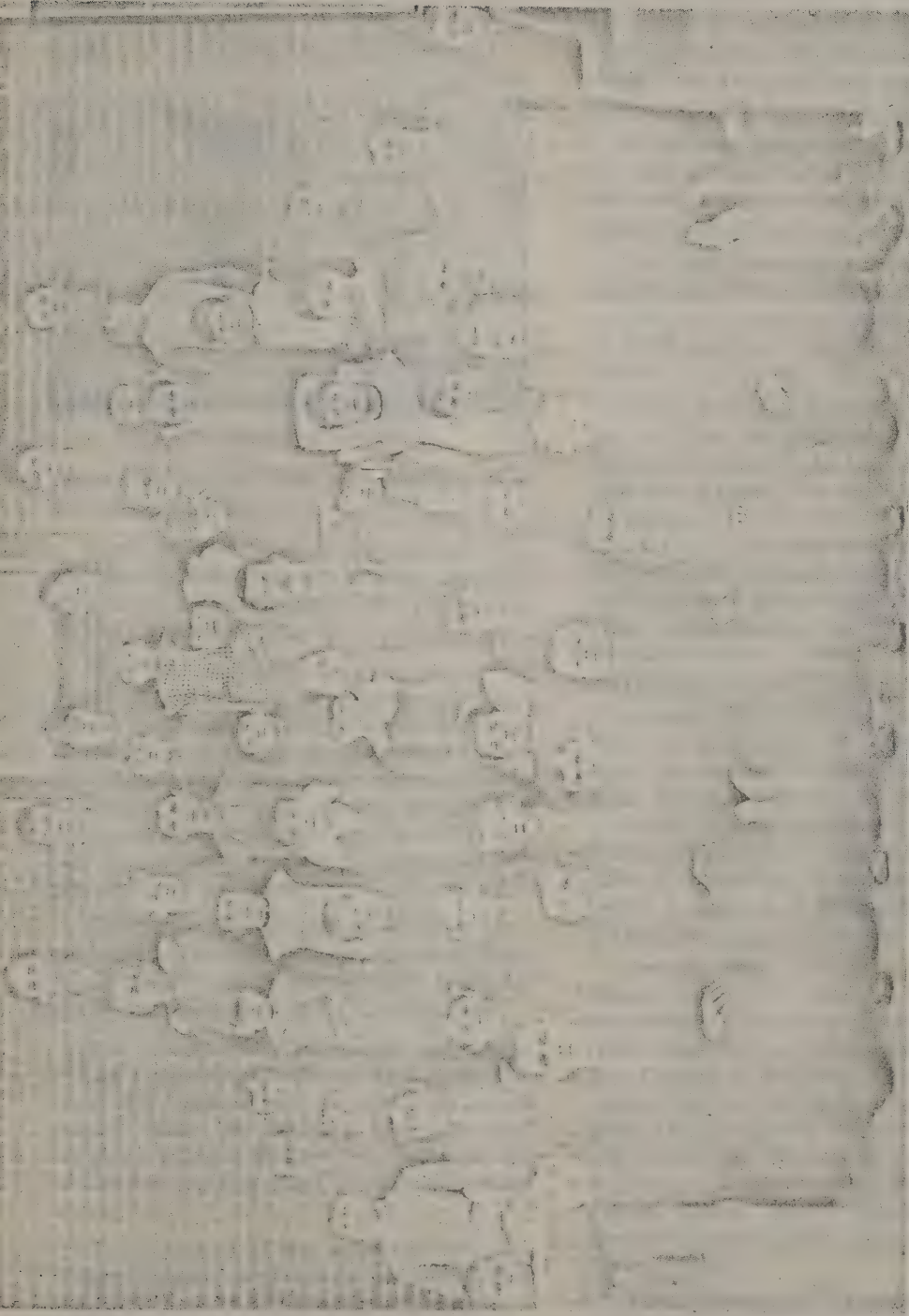
To the original three R's other studies were added. Spelling received early emphasis, mental arithmetic was added about 1845, and U. S. History, geography and grammar had become established by Civil War times.

History and geography were memorized verbatim, as also were the rules of syntax in grammar. Some parents were opposed to the study of geography, feeling that it was a waste of time unless people wanted to travel, and they wanted their children at home.

About 1900 the teaching of physiology and hygiene was made mandatory. Civil government was added several years later. Even algebra was included in one-room country schools for several years.

Until the 1885-1886 term all children had to provide their own books. In 1885 a law had been passed making it lawful for school boards to buy text books. Comparatively few districts did this. But a new law went into effect in 1893 which made it obligatory for school boards to provide text books and supplies at public expense.

The book committee has to date been unable to determine the exact year of the erection of the brick building in town. Clarence Daniel says his grandfather, George Daniels, built it about 1872 and 1873; and that he made the bricks for it on the present Frank Hess farm, of which he was then the owner.



UPPER GRADES GRATZ SCHOOLS ABOUT 1884

Front row (left to right)—Clarence Kratzer, Richard Bowman, Jacob Ritzman, Carlos Wiest, William Kemble, William Zerfing, Herbert Dunkleberger, John Schminky, Harper Umholtz. Second row—John Good, Morris Miller, Irwin Bowman, Charles Hess, Joseph Boyer, George Keener, John Strayer, Ira Lebo, Wilson Kauterman, Harry Good, George Salada, Jacob Shiro. Third row—Carrie Boyer, Carrie Maurer, Mary Coleman, Allen Fidler, Harvey Garber, Jennie Hoke, Katie Kreiser, Prof. George W. Gise, Carrie Umholtz, Bessie Sebold, Lizzie Shiro, George Garber, George Coleman. Fourth row—John Lebo, Harvey Hess, Meta Klinger, Carrie Sebold, Lizzie Keener, Sallie Reigle, Gertrude Kratzer, Mary Clark, Annie Kissinger. Fifth row—Jonathan Clark, Minnie Kreiser, Minnie Fidler, Jennie Maurer, George Hopler, Carrie Saltzer, Annie Blyler. Sixth row—William Moyer, Joseph Phillips, Laura Phillips, Ida Kratzer, Harry Wiest, William Kauterman.



The Gratz Schoolhouses

He is said to have been paid only five hundred dollars for the job.

Since the 1862 map of the borough does not show a school on the hill but the 1875 map does, it is reasonable to accept Mr. Daniel's approximate date.

This two-room brick building served the pupils of the borough adequately only until the early nineties. Another room was found necessary and a two-story frame building was erected under the supervision of Franklin Fidler about 1895. Morris Zerfing, the grand old music teacher, who is still living, was the primary teacher the first year the new building was used.

Both rooms in the frame building were put into use at once, and the first-floor room in the brick building was not used again for school purposes until the 1913-1914 term.

During the years this room was not in use as a classroom it served as a recreation room and "gymnasium" for the high school pupils. Here the dramatic club presented its plays, public meetings were held, and the writer can recall at least one medicine show there.

The exteriors of the buildings have undergone little change during the years. The interiors have had occasional renovations and improvements.

The brick building was gutted by fire of unknown origin on the night of January 17, 1927. Valiant work by fire companies and volunteer workers kept the fire from spreading to the frame building, the church, and other buildings. For the remainder of the school year the high and grammar schools were conducted in the Odd Fellows Hall.

In the rebuilding of the interior the layout was changed by enclosing some of the hall and taking part of the main room to make the present library room.

The high school first received state recognition as a two-year approved high school in 1909 while John A. Smith was principal. In 1926 another year was added to the course.

Gratz Borough School District became part of the eight-district Upper Dauphin Jointure, effective with the beginning of the 1954 school year. The first six grades of the borough and nearly all of the Lykens Township pupils in these grades are now housed in the two buildings in Gratz. Seventh and eighth grades attend Berrysburg, and the upper grades attend the Joint High School in Elizabethtown. Clair E. Troy is the supervising principal of the joint system.

Among the principals were the following: A. S. Beisel, J. F. Biddle, George W. Gise, Henry Gise, W. O. Moyer, J. T. Hoffman, Harry W. Porter, W. R. Shank, John A. Smith, Harry E. Klinger, C. E. Boyer, Hattie Zimmerman, Raymond J. Coleman, Allen L. Schoffstall, Emmond R. Miller, Elerslie A. Lebo, C. A. Hurst, Ray Ruhl, C. S. Altland and Lloyd M. Bellis.

Among those who served in the grade schools before 1920 were the following: Miriam Boyer, Christiana Boyer Latsha, Gertrude Lebo Walton, Daisy Grimes, Alice Snyder, Clayton J. Umholtz, Darius Wiest, Edward A. Reigle, Morris Zerfing, Ruth L. Benedict, George Keener, Mollie Bowman, Darwin Romberger, Wellington Gise, H. Newton Schminky, Bessie Seebold, William Zerfing, Joseph Bickel, Henry Schoffstall, William Showers, Aaron Daniel, Lloyd M. Bellis, and Jersey Wiest.

Those serving in the grades since 1920: Earle F. Hoffman, Ethel Hoffman, William

Wingert, Anna Klauss, Edna Hoffman, Mary Hornish, Pauline Schoffstall, Bertha Lebo, Flora C. Wynn, Margaret D. Rounsley, Olive Keiser, Mildred Fasnacht, Mae E. Boger, Helen Swab, Allen B. Evitts, Isabel Shatto, Emma M. Graham, Doris Updegrave, Samuel A. Reigel, Alma E. Maurer, Mae Hoffman, Thomas Costello and Ralph J. Knohr.

Assistant teachers in the high school were: Clara M. Kast, Lloyd M. Bellis, Helen L. Core, Martha Reigel, Harold Myers, James L. Brown, Gordon Foster, and George S. Kellett.

Before the school term was extended to its present nine-month term the Gratz school buildings were frequently used by the principal and one of the elementary teachers for a Summer School. The term was usually for ten weeks.

In addition to offering the usual courses to the pupils of the town and surrounding area they also conducted a teacher training course. Quite a number of the students taking this course successfully passed the examination for a provisional teachers certificate.

Old timers in the town will remember that some of the students in this teacher training course came from a distance and boarded in town for five days each week while the school was in progress.

A. S. Beisel was probably the founder of this summer school about 1880, and made a huge success of it. J. T. Hoffman was likewise very successful with it around the turn of the century. Other principals also at various times conducted these summer schools.

—Lloyd M. Bellis

The Lykens Township Schools

Much of what has been written in the previous article also applies to the Lykens Township Schools. This article will supplement the other one.



Salada's School—2½ miles east of Gratz

For many years there were eight one-room buildings in the township. These were Gise's, Hoffman's, Kissinger's, Lubold's, Salada's, Schoffstall's, Shepley's and Troutman's.



Kissinger's School
Now Lykens Township polling place

Troutman's was across the Mahantango Mountain near Hebe. As this school served only a few families the enrollment always was very low, maybe five or six. For this reason this school was closed as early as 1913. The pupils were transported to another district.

In 1914 title was acquired to a tract of land in Erdman and a new school was erected there to solve the overcrowding problem at Lubold's. This school, for obvious reasons was called Kessler's.



Shepley's School—2 miles northwest of Gratz

Until about World War I families averaged larger than today, and school enrollments averaged high. Schools of sixty and seventy were common. Enrollments decreased over the years, teachers were hard to get, so that, beginning in 1945, the school board began closing schools and transporting pupils. In that year Lubold's was closed, and Hoffman's in 1948. When the newly-organized Upper Dauphin Joint School District began functioning in 1954, Salada's, Gise's and Shepley's were also closed. In 1955 Kissinger's followed suit, leaving Kessler's the only one remaining open. The last one to be opened will be the last one to be closed.

With much help from C. H. Willier and the County Superintendent's office, the writer has tried to make as complete a list of teachers as possible. Doubtless some names will be missing.

The list follows:

Henry Umholtz, Joseph D. Gise, G. W. Lodge, Jonas Kissinger, Daniel E. Artz, Henry Schoffstall, William H. Showers, Jonas Keiser, George Hering, Joseph D. Pontius, Cyrus Schnyder, J. H. Laudenslager, Henry A. Feagley, Thomas A. Leib, George Williard, Henry Schoffstall, Henry Umholtz, Nathaniel Walborn, Henry Walborn.

Somewhat later came John A. Laudenslager, Daniel S. Klinger, John A. Saltzer, Frank Ferree, Uriah H. Daniel, Henry Willier, Andrew Willier, Emanuel Dockey, William Moyer, John Williard, John Harman, Tobias Klinger, Jonathan Schmeltz, Frank Boyer, Jacob Boyer, John A. Willier, John

Latsha, Anna Latsha, Perry Brosius, Homer Deibler, Daniel Blyler, Ulysses Williard, Norman Deibler, Gurney Reigle, Katie Williard, Daniel Kissinger, Charles Dockey, Claude Miller, George E. Koppenhaver, Riley Haag, Morris Zerfing, Arthur R. Deibler, Harry E. Klinger, John Keener, George Keener, Daniel Koppenhaver, Darius J. Wiest, Sallie Daniel, Alice D. Snyder, Anna Daniel, Edward A. Reigle, Charles L. Hess, Milton Daniel, Joseph A. Ferree.

Between 1900 and 1920 new ones were added to the list. Some of these were Anna Schoffstall, Charles M. Rissinger, Cloyd Miller, Philip Boyer, John Boyer, Fred Witmer, Jacob Koppenhaver, Maybelle Hartman, Laura Hartman, Anna Latsha, Milton Schoffstall, Henry Wenrich, Kay Moyer, Allen Kissinger, John H. Hoffman, Ira G. Scheib, Homer Kocher, Carrie Boyer, Harry Buffington, Stella Shadle, Raymond J. Coleman, Charles E. Henninger, Charles E. Harris, Warren B. Matter, Allen L. Schoffstall, Lloyd M. Bellis, Ruth R. Reigle, Edna Schaeffer, Clayton H. Willier, Lee E. Boyer, Ray H. Snyder, George F. Klinger, James M. Koppenhaver.

Since 1920 the following new ones were added: Edna Kissinger, Effie Lubold, Edna Rapp, Penrose Shadle, Kathryn M. Shaffer, Fred M. Stepp, John Wolfe, Russell Crabb, Vivia Williard, Paul Hartman, Elva Weaver, Ada Lupold, Irene Hart, May V. Kenning, Margaret Gerhard, Mary C. Dilk, Harry W. Zechman, Marjorie Seip, Eva R. Romberger, Elma B. Adams, Naomi J. Flury, Sarah Schlicher, Katherine Grell, William E. Wingert, Ruth T. Evitts, Harry M. Unger, Rita March, Arlene Klinger, Winifred Koppenhaver, Anne L. Evans, Harlan E. Schlegel, Pearl Miller, John H. Lenker, John H. McLaughlin, Bertha Blyler, Verna M. Schmeltz, Mae Hoffman, Harold M. Young, Anna T. Heisler, Edith Grell.

All of the buildings have been sold with the exception of Kessler's: Hoffman's to Charles Reigle; Schoffstall's to Charles Romberger; Lubold's to William Straub; Gise's to Robert Sitlinger. These four have been converted into homes. Elmer C. Blyler pur-

chased Salada's and is using it for storage. The Lykens Township Board of Supervisors bought Kissinger's for office purposes and as a polling place. Shepley's was purchased by Mabel Willier and is to be used as a com-

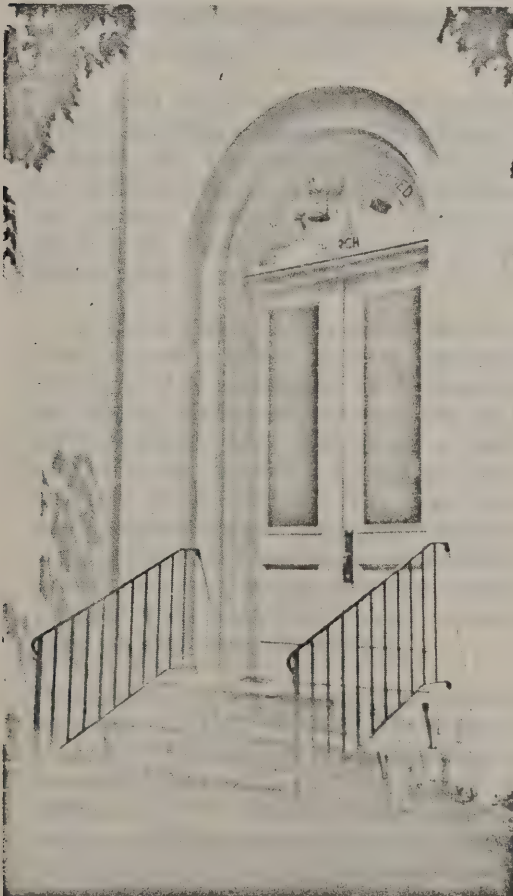
munity center. An annual reunion of pupils and teachers sponsored by C. H. Willier is held there.

—Lloyd M. Bellis

The Gratz Churches

Simeon's Lutheran and Reformed

For a number of years after its founding Gratz did not have any churches. The Reformed people worshiped at Hoffman's and the Lutherans at St. John's. It was not long, however, until there appeared on the scene a pastor of either denomination to bring about the organization of a church in Gratz. The Lutheran pastor was Rev. John N. Hemping; the Reformed pastor was Rev.



Entrance to Simeon's Lutheran and Reformed Church



Simeon's Lutheran and Reformed Church
Courtesy — Valley Citizen

Isaac Gerhart. Prior to these two it seems that Rev. John Michael Enterline had done preliminary work for the Lutherans, and Rev. John Ross Riley for the Reformeds in Lykens Valley.

Simon Gratz, although of the Jewish faith, generously donated these early worshipers a log structure for a place of worship. This building was later converted into a dwelling and is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Smeltz.

As the congregations on both sides were increasing in number it was soon found necessary to erect a more commodious building. Again Mr. Gratz came to their aid with the donation of a site on Center Street north of town which had a frontage of sixteen rods and a depth of ten rods; exactly one acre.

The cornerstone for the present church edifice was laid on August 14, 1831. The

building was completed and dedicated in 1832. Simon Gratz presented the first pulpit Bible. The building was without a steeple, and there was no cement plastering over the walls. Also the building had, as virtually all church structures had at that time, a door on either side. These doors were later removed, and the openings were bricked in sufficiently to allow just enough space to replace the doors with windows slightly narrower than the others. Thousands of people have worshiped here and have never observed this. But the evidence is there. It can readily be seen by anyone who examines the lower middle windows on both the north and south sides. Note how much larger the arches over these two windows are. Also note that the bricks do not overlap where the bricked-in portion of the wall meets the original wall.

About 1850 a steeple was added and the first bell installed.

In 1883 the church underwent extensive repairs and improvements. The steeple was replaced with the present more ornate one, the exterior walls were covered with cement, the interior painted and the present-day pews were installed. Total cost of these improvements was \$2618.06.

It was probably at this time that the side doors, before referred to, were replaced by windows. And presumably at the same time the Gothic window on the east side of the attic replaced what had been a round-arched Roman window. Here also there is evidence of bricking-in. This was a mistake, architecturally. Our present-day pews, while without a doubt more comfortable to catch a nap on a Sunday morning, probably replaced pews that were more in keeping with the architecture generally.

Repairs and improvements continued to be made. In 1906, aided by the generosity of Andrew Carnegie, a new pipe organ was installed. The steam heating system was added in 1912. Several years earlier an acetylene lighting system was put into use. About the same time the translucent, leaded-glass windows replaced the old frosted-glass windows.

In 1932 extensive interior renovations were made, including complete interior repainting, new carpets laid, new lectern and pulpit Bibles obtained, and the painting CHRIST IN GETHSEMANE placed on the west wall behind the pulpit.

At that time the church was one hundred years old, and after the renovations were completed a one hundredth anniversary celebration lasting a week was observed. The members of the sister church, the Evangelical Congregational, very generously offered the use of their building while the renovations were being made and it was here that both congregations conducted their services during the summer and fall of 1932.

The Union Cemetery was incorporated in 1941.

In 1947 the exterior walls were replastered and repainted.

During the early years of the church the pastors, both Lutheran and Reformed, covered large territories and served many churches at the same time. According to their diaries and other early records much of their vast travel was done on horseback, and services were not too frequent. Gradually, however, as the number of ordained ministers increased, the number of churches served by each pastor could be reduced, and more attention could be given to each congregation.

The Reformed pastors who have served in Gratz were the following:

Rev. Isaac Gerhart	1822-1844
Rev. John A. Leis	1844-1856
Rev. R. A. Fisher	1856-1857
Rev. Ephraim Kieffer	1857-1865
Rev. Jacob Rehm	1865-1872
Rev. W. E. Engle	1872-1889
Rev. Samuel Kuhn	1889-1890
Rev. J. J. Stauffer	1891-1902
Rev. A. Zimmerman	1902-1904
Rev. C. P. Wehr, D.D.	1905-1937
Rev. A. L. Zechman	1937-1949
Rev. Walter E. Boyer (Supply)....	1949-1950
Rev. E. R. Marks	1950-

The Lutheran pastors were:

Rev. John N. Hempling	1822-1827
Rev. John P. Schindel	1827-1843

Rev. August Bergner	1843-1860
Rev. W. R. C. Hasskarl	1861-1865
Rev. Jeremiah Schindel	1865-1870
Rev. Thomas Steck	1870-1873
Rev. Reuben S. Wagner	1874-1881
Rev. Joseph Hillpot	1881-1889
Rev. O. E. Pflueger	1889-1902
Rev. C. F. Kuder	1903-1906
Rev. H. A. Kunkle	1907-1908
Rev. E. J. Heilman	1909-1918
Rev. W. Z. Artz	1918-

Both denominations have had the usual auxiliary organizations. As far back as the memory of our oldest residents goes there

has always been some form of Sunday School. Originally it was a Union Sunday School. About 1902 differences developed and denominational schools were organized. During the past several years the schools have again been united.

In the past there also had been a Union Ladies' Aid Society, which contributed liberally to the support of the church for many years. Later the Lutherans had a Ladies' Aid Society, and the Reformed women organized a King's Daughters Bible Class which is still functioning.

—Lloyd M. Bellis

Evangelical Congregational Church

The only other church building in Gratz, the Evangelical Congregational Church, was built by a faction of Lutherans and, to a lesser extent, Reformeds.

Beginning about 1840 differences developed in the Lutheran Church which extended over a large area. These differences manifested themselves in the Simeon's congregation in Gratz. The dissenting faction, known as the "New Measures" party, left the church north of town and organized a new congregation.

It was this new group that build the present Evangelical Congregational Church in 1846. The seceded group found itself too small numerically to maintain a church, and soon ran into financial difficulties. The pastor of this new church was the Rev. Charles F. Stoever, who served here from 1845 to 1850. There is no record of any other pastorate.

Dr. Isaiah S. Schminky in the late 1840's organized what was first spoken of as a Methodist Church, and bought this church edifice for his group. Soon after that it was known as an Evangelical Association Church.

What likely had happened was that Dr. Schminky had acted originally for the Evangelical Association, because many years ago people spoke of the Evangelicals as German Methodists. Indeed, many people still living will recall that only forty or fifty years ago this church was frequently spoken of as "Die Maddedis Karrich."

The Evangelical Association also found itself at odds at times, and a division in the church before the turn of the century made the Gratz congregation a member of the group known as the United Evangelical. A further realignment in 1923 made it a part of the Evangelical Congregational organization.

The authorities of this denomination believe that more effective work is done by



The Evangelical Congregational Church

frequent changes of pastors. For a long time a pastor could expect to remain in a parish not more than three years. This period has been extended over the years, and now a pastor may be reappointed up to a maximum of eight years.

As a result of this regulation this church has been served by many pastors in its little better than one hundred years' existence. Records of the early years are sketchy, and for this reason no complete list of the pastors can be given for the church's early years.

Rev. C. E. Morrison, the present pastor, has kindly provided the following list of the pastors who served since 1891:

Rev. W. M. Wengert.....	1891-1894
Rev. J. K. Freed.....	1894-1896
Rev. Stephen Buntz.....	1896-1899
Rev. N. S. Hawk.....	1899-1901
Rev. Thomas Knecht.....	1901-1905
Rev. J. T. Layton.....	1905-1908
Rev. G. M. Imboden.....	1908-1912
Rev. J. K. Hoffman.....	1912-1917
Rev. G. H. Seidel.....	1917-1920
Rev. H. D. Smith.....	1920-1921
Rev. H. W. Kriebel.....	1921-1925
Rev. William Wieand.....	1925-1927
Rev. A. R. Reichert.....	1927-1930
Rev. Hiram O. Weaver.....	1930-1932
Rev. J. J. Fasnacht.....	1932-1936
Rev. Ralph K. Todd.....	1936-1939
Rev. William B. Biechler.....	1939-1940
Rev. Henry A. Minnich.....	1940-1943
Rev. Ralph A. Hillegas.....	1943-1949
Rev. C. E. Morrison.....	1949-

This church has always had a small but working membership. Its building has kept pace with progress, improvements having been made from time to time.

At least five sons of this congregation have entered the Christian ministry.

1. Michael Ritzman, who served in the mission field in China for many years, and later was a professor in the Albright School of Theology until his death several years ago.

2. Philip B. Boyer was licensed to preach in 1904 and served as a student preacher until his graduation from Albright College in 1909. He then served parishes at Dayton, Herndon, Mahantango, East Greenville, Ono-Steelstown-Bunker Hill, Williamstown, East Weissport, Northampton, Zieglerville, East Rutherford, and Hamburg. He died in 1946.

3. Clarence S. Hoffman, who, after graduating from Princeton Seminary in 1910, entered the mission field in Korea, serving there until the outbreak of the Second World War, in 1941, a period of thirty-one years. Since that time he spent ten years as pastor of the Elsmere Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, Delaware. He retired in 1952.

4. Luther R. Klinger. Licensed to preach in 1925. Served pastorates at Womelsdorf-Robesonia, Birdsboro, Trevorton, Mahanoy City, and is now pastor of Grace Church, Ephrata.

5. Albert R. Kratzer. Licensed in 1930. He served pastorates in Hatfield and Columbia before becoming superintendent of the Burd and Rogers Memorial Home at Herndon and Myerstown.

This small congregation has continued its Mid-Week Prayer Services, an institution largely abandoned in this area as well as the church at large. For this they deserve great credit.

—Lloyd M. Bellis

Hoffman's Church

This church is credited with being the oldest house of worship in the Lykens Valley, dating back to the year 1771. John Nicholas Hoffman, the second son of John Peter Hoffman, who was owner of a large tract of land in that area, donated eight

acres of it for a church, a school and a burial place.

Stout timbers were felled, hewn into logs, and dragged into place for the church building. The structure was erected under the supervision of Levi Buffington.

The pulpit and the chancel occupied the northern end of the church, while the organ was in the center of the rear balcony. The pulpit was of the "wine glass" type. The entrance to the church was on the south side. There was a gallery on the east, west and south sides.

There are records of baptisms as early as 1781, but more of the congregation's activities are recorded after the year 1791.

The first elders of the congregation (1771) were: William Bordner, Jacob Laudenslager, Peter Willier and Andrew Daniel.

Early pastors included the following: Samuel Dubendorf (1781-1786), Anthony Houtz (1791-1799), William Hendel, Jr. (1805-1807), James Reily (1812-1819).

Supply pastors during the periods when there was no regular pastor included: Geistweit, Helfenstein, Adam Glonninger, Smith, Drefenbach, Becker, Hantz and Philip Glonninger. Since Reily's pastorate the pastors have been those who are listed for Simeon's Reformed.

The original log building, erected in 1771, served its purpose until 1885, more than a century, when the erection of the present edifice was begun on the same site. Many of the logs of the old church were resawed and used in the construction of the present church. A ninety-foot steeple was erected to accommodate a silver-tone bell, a gift of the John Boyer family, to call the people to the services. Rudolph Dornheim of Gratz made the pews by hand in 1886.

A storm some years ago tore down the steeple and the lower steeple on the church at the present time was erected.

The old church, in common with many of the older churches in the valley, was used for school purposes. Since this was the oldest church, it may well have been the site of the first school in the valley.

In the church yard the Daughters of the American Revolution have erected a bronze plaque, mounted on a huge boulder, honoring the Revolutionary War soldiers buried there.

C. H. Willier

History Of Klinger's Church

Klinger's Church is one of the oldest churches in the valley. It was built in 1800, and dedicated September 28, 1801. It had galleries on three sides, also doors on three sides.



Original Klinger's Church—Built 1800
Razed 1894

In an English translation of the baptism in the first record book of Klinger's Church made in 1903, by George S. Klinger, of Gratz, Pa., there is a draft of the church property,

a list of minutes and a document in German, evidently copied from some older document accessible to Mr. Klinger, at that time, but since lost. This document is not at hand at present, is not contained in any of Klinger's books, nor do we know where Mr. Klinger got the list of minutes. We give a translation of the document as follows:

This indenture testifies that on September 18, 1800, in Upper Paxtang Township, Dauphin County, at Philip Klinger's Cemetery, that the Evangelical Lutheran and Evangelical Reformed have united in building this church, and that this Reformed congregation have the same rights in the church and cemetery as said Lutheran congregation, and the cemetery is to be kept in good condition by each; and neither side is to interfere with the pastors and also no pastor is to serve that is not in harmony with the will of both sides.

N.B. It is also here agreed, that if this Reformed congregation at any time intends

to build its own church, then the Lutheran congregation shall therein assist to the extent that they have been assisted at this time. Herein Gideon Williamson and Peter Schmidt are building masters on the Reformed side, and on the Lutheran side Abraham Kissinger and George Klinger, are building masters; Hames Ried, Elder, and Frederick Kreitzer, Deacon.

This we certify by hand and seal the day above written.

Nicolaus Schneider)
Christian Beschler)

Abraham Kissinger
George Klinger
Frederick Kreitzer
Johannes Riht

It is said the above Klinger's Church was dedicated September 28, 1801, when Rev. Reily was present.

This old church was razed on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 24 and 25, 1894.

The corner stone for the present Klinger's (Zion's) Church was laid Whitsunday, May 13, 1894, and dedicated Whitsunday, June 2, 1895. Emanuel Klinger was the head carpenter. A basement was added in 1952, and in 1956 the interior church building was materially improved with a new ceiling, stained glass windows, hardwood floors, new pews, and the front of the church was changed.

Records of the pastors on both sides are incomplete for the early years of the church.

George S. Klinger in 1903 compiled a partial list of both the Lutheran and Reformed pastors. Among the early Reformed pastors he listed the Reverends Reiley, Pulfrich, Knavel, Gehrhart and Stiely.

Since 1870, when Klinger's was made part of the Deep Creek Charge, the Reformed pastors were as follows: Henry S. Bassler (1871-1877), B. S. Metzgar (1877-1881), C. Baum (1881-1884), J. G. Glantz (1884-1888), George J. Leasberger (1889-1891), Wm. G. Engle (1891-1893), O. F. Schaeffer (1894-1905), R. J. Freeman (1906-1907), C. D. Kressley (1908-1917), Benj. F. Luckenbill (1917-1923), Russell D. Custer (1924-1926), Herman J. Naftzinger (1927-1931), Walter R. Hartzell (1931-1937), Paul C. Scheirer (1937-1947), Ralph C. Harrity (1947-1956).

Early Lutheran pastors serving Klinger's were: Daniel Ulrich, J. Felty, J. Hemping, L. Hass-Karl, D. E. Reed, H. Weicksel, Thomas Steck, R. S. Wagner, Joseph Hillpot.

Since 1891 the Lutheran pastors were as follows: Clinton Fetter (1891-1893), Irvin B. Ritter (1893-1894), C. A. Kerschner (1895-1900), A. H. Klick (1900-1912), Edgar P. Xander (1912-1918), John A. Latsha (1918-1922), Allen R. Appel (1923-1925), Daniel I. Sultzbach (1925-1956).

The pastors of both denominations who served Klinger's also served Coleman's.

George F. Klinger
C. H. Willier

Coleman's Church

In 1834 a plot of ground in Lykens Township, Dauphin County, was bought by John Stine and Peter Coleman and deeded to them for the purpose of locating a school house and a burying ground thereon. This land was virtually donated by Carl Coleman and doubtless the name of the church was thereby derived. After some years this school house seems to have been used for Sunday School and Church services. No records for these years are available but older members of the present congregation recall that their parents used to go to the

school house for Sunday School and Church services.

On Whitsunday, 1857, a number of Lutherans and Reformed people of Lykens Township agreed jointly to build a church. This we read in the old constitution of the church. The building committee consisted of Solomon Umholtz and John Stine. This church erected on the plot of ground referred to above was completed in 1858, and served as the place of worship until 1919, when it was torn down and replaced by

the present building which was dedicated in 1923. The new building was erected on a plot of ground immediately to the east of the old. The record book, still in possession of the congregation, lists baptisms, com-

munion, etc., from 1858 on. In 1870 Coleman's church became a part of the Deep Creek charge, after which time its records of pastors is the same as that of Klinger's.

—C. H. Willier

The Emmanuel Wesleyan Church

The Emmanuel Wesleyan Church is the most recent church to be located in our community. This organization originally had its place of worship in Pillow.

In 1947 they bought the Evangelical Association Church building in Elizabethtown which had been abandoned after the United Brethren and Evangelical Association united. This building was disassembled, hauled to a point one mile west of Gratz, and there re-assembled, and to a certain extent remodeled. The first pastor, Rev. A. E. Yoder,

was a skilled plasterer, and plastered both the inside and the outside of the church. And a professional job he did!

The pastors serving this church are the following:

Rev. A. E. Yoder.....	1946-1952
Rev. Eldon T. Rotz.....	1952-1953
Rev. G. A. Porterfield.....	1953-1954
Rev. Allen McVey.....	1954-1956
Rev. Scott Pyle.....	1956-

—Lloyd M. Bellis

SCENES ABOUT THE TOWN



Old Picture of Gratz



New Commonwealth Telephone Exchange



Lettich's Garage and Radiator Shop

PART IV

ORGANIZATIONS

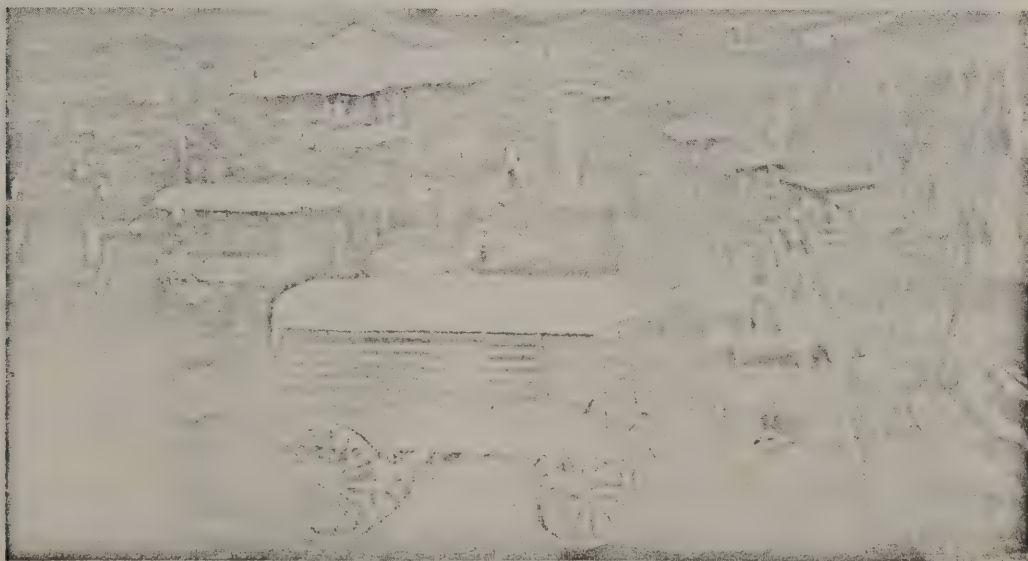
The Gratz Fair 1873-1955

The Gratz Fair was started in 1873 as a community enterprise. The original name of the Association was "The Gratz Driving Park and Agricultural Society." Stock was sold at \$10.00 a share. The original directors were as follows: President, Edward Miller of Lykens, who then operated a mine on Short Mountain; Moses R. Young, Lykens; Dr. I. S. Schminky, owner of the grounds; Joseph Umholtz, Jacob Umholtz, P. J. Artz, farmer, John Moyer, all of Gratz. Moyer had charge of the Fair Grounds. Dr. A. G. Stanley of Lykens, G. W. Hain of Williams-town, and George Moyer of Pillow who had charge of the machinery.

In 1910 the Association was incorporated. President Dr. Stanley, Vice President John Moyer, Secretary J. W. Hoffman. Besides the officers there were 19 board members. On May 9, 1902, they had automobile races. This was the first automobile race to be held in this section of the country. In 1902 the Fair was postponed on account of the min-

ers' strike of that year. In 1903 they had one of the best years financially.

As in the course of the life of nearly every project, there arrives a time when its continuance is in the balance. In 1906-1907 Harry Smith and Israel Daniel rented the Fair Grounds to see if they could make a profit before the grounds were sold. The tryout proved a success, and it was not sold but reorganized and named Agricultural and Horticultural Society. The new organization in 1908 had one of its best years. The profits from 1913 to 1920 were not very big. In 1923 an addition was built to the Grand Stand. In 1908 the new organization bought the Fair Grounds for \$2060.00, and Harry Smith was elected President; J. W. Phillips, Recording Secretary; M. A. Hartman, Vice President; Dr. W. E. Lebo, Corresponding Secretary; D. S. Klinger, Treasurer. Mr. Smith served as President till he died in 1925. Harvey Miller of Gratz was then elected President. During the depression



Old Gratz Fair Scene—Maybe about 50 years ago—Not a car in sight



Fair scenes 45-50 years ago

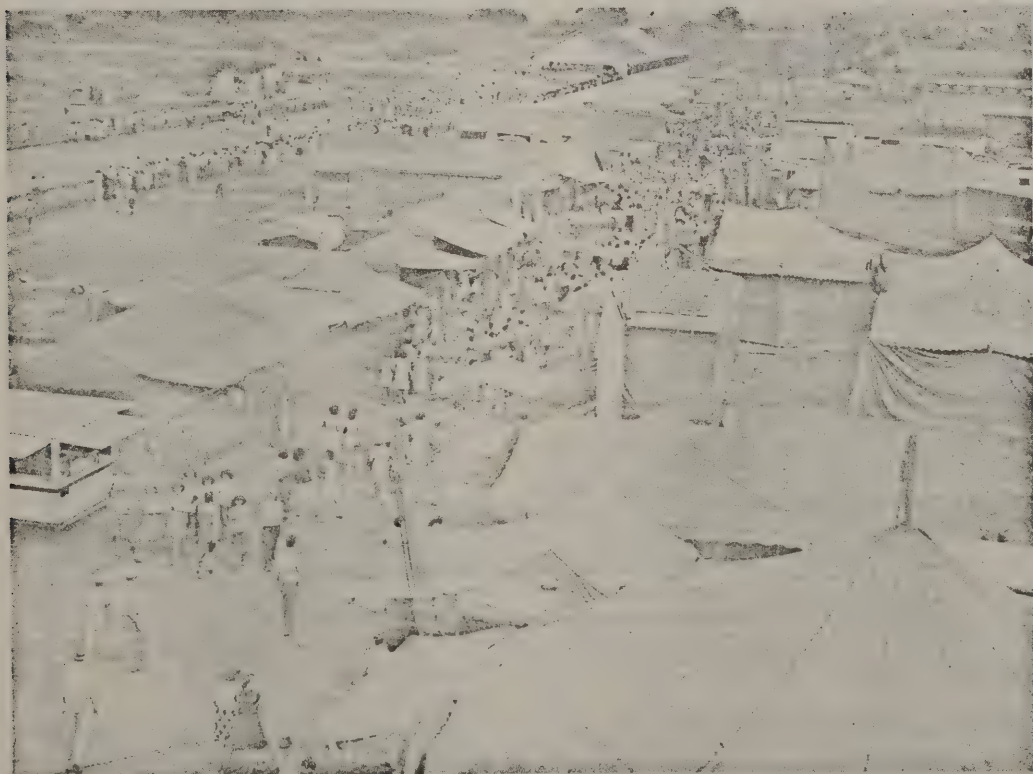
years the Fair Association was hard put to keep the fair going. In 1928 the Fair Ground was enlarged by $17 \frac{7}{16}$ acres, purchased from Charles Dietz. In 1933 the Fair Board rented the Fair Grounds to Richard Leitzel, and every Friday night he holds an auction there ever since, from the last week in March to Christmas time in December. It is one of the largest affairs within a radius of forty miles.

In 1938 the race track and the grandstand were moved to the ground purchased in 1928. In 1947 changes were made in and around the Fair premises. Ample rest

rooms, with modern flush toilets, and new buildings were added. Later the ground was enclosed with a new wire mesh galvanized steel fence, grass was planted, and the midway was also macadamized.

The present officers are: President, Naldy Leitzel; Vice President, Harry Henninger; Recording Secretary, Ford Leitzel; Corresponding Secretary, Harry Davis; Treasurer, George Adams. They are also directors, as well as the following: J. E. A. Moyer, F. O. Schadle, Daniel Romberger, A. H. Erdman, M. Albert Shade, Allen Rothermel, Richard Leitzel, Marlin Reed, James M. Miller, Allen A. Shade, C. R. Klinger, Allen Kimmel, Richard Klinger, Robert Rothermel, Herald Smith, Carl Soellner, Robert Koppenhaver, Kermit Klinger, Irvin C. Adams, Leo Rogers, Norman Sitlinger, Clair Hartman, Benjamin Weiss, John Romberger, Robert Tallman, Allen L. Shade.

C. H. Willier



Gratz Fair Midway September 21, 1946—School Day athletic events in progress on track

Gratz Fair Association Brings First Aeroplane to the Valley

Less than ten years after Orville Wright succeeded in keeping a man-carrying plane in the air for a matter of seconds the Gratz Fair Association featured as its chief attraction the first aeroplane seen in this part of the country.

The date of the first flight at the fair was Wednesday, September 17, 1913. The pilot was Walter Johnson, then twenty-five years old, who at that time held the United States' endurance record, having remained in the air for three hours and fifty-one minutes. The world's record at that time was only ten minutes longer.

Mr. Johnson had shipped his plane by express from the factory at Bath, New York, and it arrived at Elizabethtown the forenoon of the 17th. The schools and factories there had closed, and it was estimated that a crowd of five hundred people watched him assemble the plane, some of them no doubt telling him and his mechanic Earl Beers just exactly how to do it.

By 2:40 P. M. the assembling was complete and he took off for Gratz, flying at an estimated altitude of two hundred feet. His "airport" at Gratz was the second field south of the Sky-Vu Theatre, just west of Mark

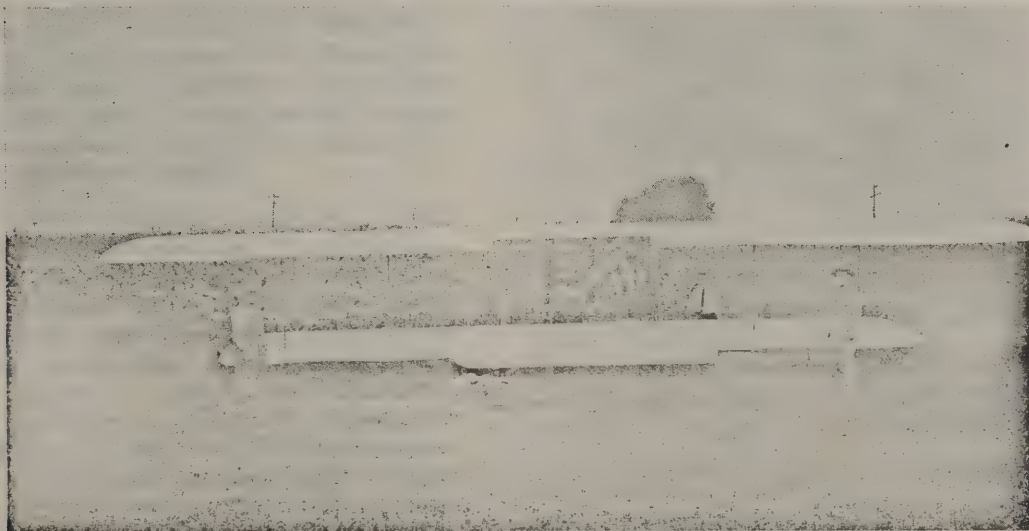
Coleman's house, and now owned by Ivan Bingaman. It was from this field that he made flights for three days. In those years there was no fair Saturdays.

Those of my readers who have long since stopped gaping as today's monsters fly overhead will be interested to know that his plane from wing-tip to wing-tip measured 43½ feet, and its depth was 51½ feet. The engine was of four-cylinder design made in Austria and had a capacity of one hundred horsepower. The wings of the machine were covered with a rubberized linen fabric impregnated with aluminum. The cost of the plane was \$5000.

Some air-minded individuals from Lykens and Millersburg were in attendance at the fair, and, saying to themselves, "Gratz can't have anything we ain't got," persuaded Mr. Johnson to visit them.

Accordingly, on Friday evening after his flight at the fair he gave the Millersburg people a demonstration. The folks passed the hat and rewarded him with \$79.69. The following morning he gave his demonstration at Lykens, where he was paid a flat fee of one hundred dollars.

—Lloyd M. Bellis.



Aeroplane at Gratz Fair 1913—Harvey Bellis and George Hepler in left foreground. Who are the others?

The Gratz Drum Corps

Gratz Band



Fifte and Drum Corps—Picture taken in Pillow after parade

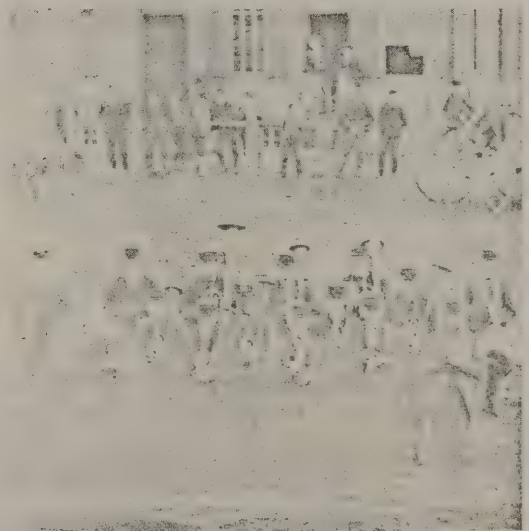
The first Drum Corps in Gratz was organized in 1875. Some of the members were: Daniel Blyler, Oscar Tobias, Uriah Daniel, Jacob Buffington, William Boyer, Umholtz's, etc.

This group was in service from 1875 to 1892. The members were as follows as they appear on the accompanying picture from left to right. It was taken in Pillow after a parade. John Kissinger, Reily Hess, John Umholtz, Joseph Umholtz, Rufus Willier, Jacob Buffington, Charles Rebuck (played the harmonica), John Willier, Aaron Umholtz, and Morris Zerfing.

In 1892 a band was organized. It had about twenty-five members. They were considered the best musicians in the valley. They played at the Gratz Fair every year as long as the band functioned; it also played at the Lykens Fair. They played for parades as far as Sunbury and Millersburg. They were very much liked for their musical ability for tone, time, volume and melody. C. U. Kratzer was the leader. Others were: Irve Bowman, Allen Fidler, George Ritzman, Jacob Smeltz, Rufus F. Willier, clarinet, Uriah Daniel, clarinet, Morris Zer-

fing, piccolo, Jacob Witmer, alto, Homer Blyler, Charles M. Blyler, Daniel Blyler, John Good, Harry Good, Daniel Kissinger, tenor horns, Henry Kreiser, drum, Jonathan Clark, snare drums, Arthur Blyler, etc.

The band was organized the third time after World War I. Milton Umholtz was the leader. The members were Ralph Witmer,



The First Gratz Band

Earl Hoffman, Albert Kratzer, Clarence Kratzer, Marlin Umholtz, Thomas Umholtz, Tom Hoffman, Jonathan Clark, Clarence Portzline, Ralph Troxell, cornet, Leo Troxell, Dean Ritzman, Ross Blyler, Clair Daniel, Daniel Wiest, Raymond Martz, Clarence

Miller, Robert Rothermel, Wayne Phillips, Herald Smith, Eugene Hoffman, Arland Kissinger, Jacob Shade, Gurney Shade, Clayton H. Willier, and also several others whose names are not remembered.

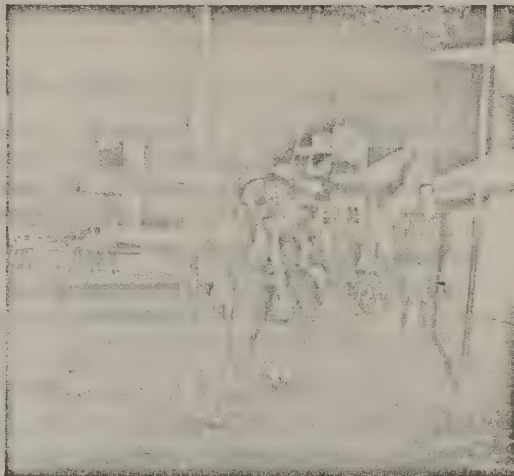
—C. H. Willier

Gratz Fraternal Organizations

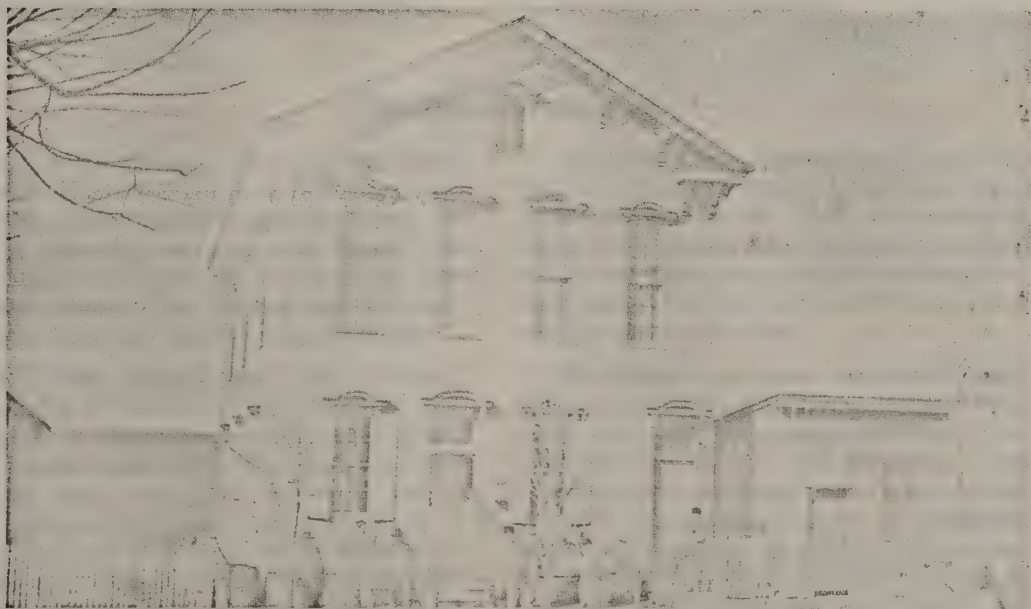
The Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Gratztown Lodge No. 563 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was organized on May 18, 1860. The first officers were as follows: Noble Grand, Jonas Laudenslager; Vice Grand, John Schreffler; Secretary, Dr. I. S. Schminky; Assistant Secretary, William H. Yohe; Treasurer, Tobias M. Wiest.

About 1870 the lodge erected the two-story structure which is still its home. The upper floor serves as a meeting place and the lower floor has been used these many years as a store room. Some mercantile business has been conducted there by the Patrons of Husbandry (Der Granger Shtore), Klinger & Bro., Jacob Shiro, Abe Gross, and the store is presently occupied by The Penn Furniture Company, Marlin S. Reed, proprietor.



Penn Furniture Company
Marlin S. Reed and son James



Odd Fellows Building about 1887—Left to right: Franklin Fidler, Frank Good, Oscar Tobias, Geo. S. Klinger, Franklin Erdman, John Willier, George Kissinger, William S. Boyer, Samuel Buffington

The Odd Fellows Hall has also served as the meeting place for other lodges, and frequently as a place of meeting for other groups.

The Patriotic Order Sons of America

This lodge was organized in 1895 and was for a long time a flourishing organization. But in common with many other institutions it found that the younger generation of men was more interested in other

In 1910 the lodge erected on the rear of its property a factory building which is still in use in the manufacture of shirts.

activities made possible by the automobile than in lodge meetings. It became evident that its continued existence was impossible and the local lodge surrendered its charter in 1945.

The Knights of the Golden Eagle

Lykens Valley Castle No. 493 of the Knights of the Golden Eagle was chartered on July 8, 1910. The charter named the following organizers: W. O. Rogers, W. E. Lebo, George W. Gise, Daniel Koppenhaver, Irvin M. Buffington, Darius J. Wiest, Harry F. Troxell, H. C. Lewis, Otto Enders, George

Hoffman, Raymond J. Coleman, Harvey C. Fidler, Charles Umholtz, William C. Straub, Austin W. Coleman, Charles Hartman and Harry Schoffstall.

The Eagles lodge, too, was prosperous for some time, but also came upon leaner years and disbanded in 1933.

Other Organizations

The Grand Army of the Republic also used the Odd Fellows Hall for its meetings. The American Legion likewise met here for a number of years. The United Mine Workers Local which was organized on August 2,

1912, and the Grange (see separate article) also made this their headquarters.

There is also some evidence that Gratz at one time had a Knights of Pythias lodge, but no records are available.

—Lloyd M. Bellis

The Gratz Grange

The Gratz Grange, Number 530, was originally organized April 9, 1875 by H. C. Demming. The Master was H. B. Schreiner and the Secretary was Aaron H. Daniel. It had a total of twenty-six members on the original charter. The Grange was thriving for some time and then it went dormant.

The Gratz Grange had a store which was located in the Odd Fellows Building and continued to do business until about 1886. The farmers would bring their eggs and butter and farm produce to the store, and a road huckster was hired who sold the produce from door to door in the mining towns around Pottsville. In 1886 the Grange sold the store to Jacob Shiro, and it must have been at this time that the grange became inactive.

The Grange was reorganized April 21, 1885, by Gerald C. Brown with John Boyer as Master and H. W. Good as Secretary. There were twenty-four charter members. We do not know what year it became dormant again, but we do know it was not a working grange in 1909.

The Grange was again organized about the time of World War I, and in the Twenties it had nearly three score members. For a decade the Grange was booming. The farmers would purchase their farm supplies through the Grange, such as groceries, twine, fertilizer, etc. In 1922-24, the Grange did over eleven thousand dollars' worth of business. John Schminky was Master for many years. Clayton H. Willier was Secretary for these two years. It was the duty

of the Lecturer to put on a program for the meeting every two weeks, with the members participating. Meetings included such things as songs, discussions on agriculture, talks, recitations, and questions on farm problems, which were very interesting. One Master said he received more education and training in public speaking in the Grange than he received in school attendance. About the year 1930, it was again not functioning. The chain stores and other cooperatives put them out of business.

The Grange was again reinstated in the early thirties, and continued for a number of years. Joseph Hartman was the last

Master, and Naldy Leitzel was the Secretary.

The coming of the movies and other amusements, cars, and so forth, took the young people elsewhere, and so the most essential community fellowship and social activities were lost, and other things took their place. It seems today that most of the lodges or social organizations, or veterans have had their day and they have gone dormant.

The fad of today is to have a television set in your own home, and forget about the rest.

—C. H. Willier

Gratz American Legion

The American Legion at Gratz, was named the Charles E. Shade Post of Gratz. Charles was the first Gratz boy to give his life in World War I. His buddy Ralph Witmer of town was only about 10 feet away from him when Charles was shot. Allen Schoffstall was in the same company; the three were from Gratz. They were in the F. C. 14 Regiment, 79th Division. The battle in which it happened was the Meuse-Argonne, France, September 27, 1918. Two of this group came back, and Ralph is living at this writing, 37 years older.

The Legion was organized in 1921 at Gratz. They met in the Smith Hall. Guy Klinger was the first Commander and Harry Zerling was Adjutant General. Later on the Legion met in the Odd Fellows Hall. The membership was approximately fifty. Later the Valley View soldiers joined with the Gratz Legion, which increased its membership to over one hundred. They had by this time many of the weapons used by the Germans, such as swords, bayonets, pistols, etc. Since the Legion discontinued, none of the Gratz veterans knows what happened to the relics. They also had a record book about two inches thick and large in size containing pictures of the war and other documents.

They had received a citation certificate that Gratz had more soldiers in the war than any place of its size in the United States. It was signed by Woodrow Wilson, the Presi-

dent, and the Seal of the United States of America was stamped on it.

As Gratz was the leading town within a ten mile radius, they took the initiative for the other towns on Memorial Day. They escorted the remaining Civil War veterans on their visits to neighboring cemeteries, starting at Gratz, then to Coleman's Church, Klinger's Church, Erdman, Klingerstown, Hebe, Pillow, and then returned to Gratz. They stopped at each cemetery and decorated the graves and gave a salute by the firing squad and the Bugle Call. This was appreciated very much by the G. A. R.

A Reverend Duel, a preacher, was a member of the Gratz Legion. He would accompany the group and when the people turned out at the various cemeteries, he gave a talk. At Hebe about seventy-five had turned out to see and hear their program. At Pillow the band was out and at times had a parade in the morning when this group arrived. On one of these occasions they had a chicken dinner at Pillow furnished by Cyrus Leitzel and sponsored by the Legion. This was in 1922.

On other occasions they went the other way around and stopped at Klingerstown and had a Picnic Dinner for the G. A. R. and their wives which was prepared by the Legionnaires' wives. At this time there were five members left in the Grand Army:

John Hoffman, Jacob Shiro, Jacob Kissinger, Jerry McCoy, and C. T. Bowman.

In Gratz in the afternoon they had a parade led by the Gratz Band, and held a service in the Lutheran and Reformed Church. C. T. Bowman was the Major who led the parade.

The last of these great occasions that Gratz had was about 1923. This was sort of a home-coming for Gratz. The town was

decorated with extra arches across the streets.

The largest parade ever held in Gratz was on July 2, 1955. There isn't anything that can compete with this last one in the 150 years of past history. May the young boys and girls tell their great-grandchildren of the Sesquicentennial of Gratz, Pennsylvania.

—C. H. Willier

American Legion Auxiliary Unit

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit of Shade Post No. 399, Gratz, was organized Monday evening, April 9th, 1926, at Gratz, in the building of the I. O. O. F. Hall. The first president of this Unit was Mrs. R. E. Blyler. She served for several years after which Mrs. Blair M. Schminky served for about three to four years. Mrs. Elura Steely served about two years; Mrs. Howard Miller, formerly from Berrysburg, one year. Mrs. Ralph H. Witmer served for several years. Mrs. Mark Stine then served until her death. Mrs. Ralph H. Witmer then succeeded her, serving again for a second term for a number of years. Mrs. Elvirdia Welker then served for four years, and at the present time Mrs. Harry L. Shade is serving as Unit President.

Miss Sula E. Witmer served as Unit Secretary for about twenty-eight consecutive years.

Treasurers who served the Unit were Mrs. John Schminky, Mrs. Harry Rheinoels, formerly of Spring Glen, Mrs. Kate Koppenhaver, Mrs. Harold Brosius, Mrs. Arthur Hess, Mrs. Herbert Hartman, and at the present time Mrs. Adam Smeltz is serving the Unit as Treasurer.

The Auxiliary is helping different programs, such as contributions to the veterans at the Coatesville Hospital, Lebanon Hospital, and also the Department—Xmas Package Fund for Veterans, also donations to the National Defense, Child Welfare, Rehabilitation. The Unit also sponsors the Poppy project each Memorial Day.

—Sula E. Witmer

The Community Library

Shortly after the return of the servicemen who had served in World War I, there developed some sentiment in the community that in common with other towns some memorial should be erected to honor the local men who had served their country.

Various suggestions were made. One given serious consideration was the erection of an appropriate marker on the square. This was ruled out, however, because of its likely becoming a traffic hazard. In retrospect we can see what an obstacle this would be today in the light of the greatly increased automobile traffic and the coming of the trailer-truck behemoths.

After much informal discussion, Ray H. Snyder called a meeting of interested people to consider the possibility of organizing a community library to serve as a tribute to these men.

At this meeting an organization was effected, subscriptions received, and possible locations considered. The storeroom in the Odd Fellows Building was rented, and with the help of the Pennsylvania State Library, the newly-formed library came into being.

The library had its headquarters here for about five years. The rent was an item of some concern, and there was a feeling

that, if provision could be made in the high school, the library would be available more hours per day to the teachers and pupils, who had become the most frequent patrons of the library.

Accordingly, a room was arranged in the high school building, shelves were built, and the books moved there about 1926.

In addition to its own growing collection of books, the library is served by the Harrisburg Public Library, Dauphin County Branch. Their truck, affectionately called the "Cardinal," visits the school about every two months and brings a new supply of

books and takes away those left on the previous delivery.

The library is open one evening each week during the summer. During the school term it is open every day school is in session.

The library is always glad to receive good books for its shelves. When those books get in your way at house-cleaning time, take them to the library. They will be received with thanks. No "U. S. Department of Agriculture Reports for 1896," please, or their close relatives!

Lloyd M. Bellis

The Gratz Fire Company

The Gratz Fire Company was organized in December 1924. Jacob Gratz, a great-grandson of Simon Gratz, of Lykens, helped to organize the first company. They helped out of town to check many fires, especially up Mahantango Valley.



Gratz Fire House

The first fire house was in the store room at the east side of the Odd Fellows Building. The engine was in the front room. At the rear was a small room for meetings.

The first officers were: President, I. M. Buffington; Secretary, Daniel Koppenhaver; Treasurer, William Reed; Fire Chief, Monroe E. Klinger; Assistant Fire Chief, Milton O. Umholtz; Foreman, Marlin Umholtz; Trustees, George Hepler, I. M. Buffington, Charles Zerfing. The only one still living is Marlin

Umholtz. He has now served the Fire Company at Gratz in various offices for over a quarter of a century.

The new Fire House was built in 1947-48 on South Center Street, a two-story building with a hall on the second floor, and on the first floor a social room, a meeting room and fire truck room.

The officers now are: President, Russel Hoffman; Vice President, Robert Buffington; Recording Secretary, George A. Koppenhaver; Financial Secretary, C. M. Wise; Treasurer, William Phillips; Foreman, Marlin Umholtz; Fire Chief, Ralph Witmer; Assistant Chief, Alvin Williard; Second Assistant Chief, Don H. Miller; First Assistant Foreman, Rufus Kebaugh; Second Assistant Foreman, Derl Rabuck; Third Assistant Foreman, William Rank. Fire Police: John J. Bingaman, Ben Hepler, Harry Hepler, Jr., Melvin Stroup, John H. Miller, Rufus Kebaugh, C. S. Buffington, Robert Kriner, Isaac Reigle. Drivers: Robert Hopple, Peter Stine, Derl Rabuck, Irvin Adams, George Reed, Melvin Stroup, John H. Miller, Thomas Hartman, Allen Shade, Warren Buffington. Trustees, Naldy Leitzel, Clair Koppenhaver and C. M. Klinger.

—C. H. Willier

Gratz Boy Scouts Troop 87

This great national and trustworthy organization of and for our boys all over these great United States is as much a heritage of our great ancestors as these wonderful statutes of government we hold so dear and priceless today. It is an organization which holds much integrity and praise for the privilege it affords our youth of today. Any group of boys can indeed be proud to be a part of it and our troop surely is.

Just as any other great organization, this also has its honorary statutes, which the boys must adhere to as their guide and principle. The troop helps to build good character and manhood. The boys learn that one has to be honest, trustworthy, capable, and unselfish. This helps them for the competitive fields of life.

A Scout must also be loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent toward God. He is faithful to his religious duties, and respects the convictions of others in matters of customs and religion.

The Boy Scout Troop in Gratz was organized about the year 1939 and had an approximate membership of 14 at the beginning. As the year progressed the number grew in membership materially.

About the third year after the organization the troop bought fifteen acres of mountain land which was for the use of the boys as well as their fellowmen. This land is south of Gratz at the Short Mountain, just beyond where Fort Jackson used to be. This land was rendered useful by building a cabin for the Troop meeting place, a lovely mountain resort and recreation home. The cabin

is 42 by 20 feet and has a screened porch the length of the cabin, a mess hall, recreation hall, and bunk room. To the west of the cabin is an open field for playground. Any one desiring a place for recreation may come to Gratz and see the Troop and spend a week in this beautiful Lykens Valley.

The cabin is electrically lighted by the troop's own electric power plant. It is near the cold spring and has an abundance of good mountain water at the overflow pipe. The playground has been improved through the years. There are outdoor fireplaces, picnic tables, swings, and chairs with plenty of nice shaded space, or open sunshine area to take a sun bath, making an ideal place for picnicking or camping in the hot summer months.

The fifth year the membership was 52 boys. Then World War II came along. Approximately 25 to 30 boys left our camp to join the service of our country. The Troop kept on through the years. The present number is 15 boys. New members are welcomed heartily.

The Scouts are proud of the present committee. They are all respected citizens of Gratz: Irvin Adams, Harold Umholtz, Robert Rothermel, Jacob Sitlinger, Ralph Witmer, and Melvin Stroup.

The Scouts also hold in high esteem the present sponsors — Adams' and Stroup's Garages of Gratz.

LeRoy Zerfing is Scoutmaster, and has been since the beginning of the Troop. Francis Kobel is Assistant Scoutmaster.

—C. H. Willier & LeRoy Zerfing

Original Gratz Girl Scouts

The American Legion Auxiliary sponsored the organization of the first Girl Scout Troop in our town. The Troop was registered as No. 50 in the Harrisburg District. The leader or captain was Miss Mae E. Boger; Senior Scout Leaders were Elsie Schminky and Marie Stine.

The Troop had a very active committee serving them. They sponsored soup sales, block parties, flower show, and bake sales, the proceeds of which enabled the Troop to go camping at Lithia Springs and Beury's Lake.

The Committee women took the Leadership Training Course given by the Upper

River District, so that each member was qualified to take over and assist in Scout Training; also to examine and test each girl for their Merit Badges as they advanced in Scout Training.

Committee members were: Mrs. Margaret Bellis, Mrs. Marie Kebaugh, Mrs. Edna Schminky, Mrs. Erma Witmer, and Mrs. Hilda Blyler.

Troop No. 50 participated in Church Services, Candle Light Services, any local activity in which their services were needed. They did commendable choral work for the American Legion at their ox roast dinners. Their pianist during the choral work was Mr. Clair Altland. At the Upper River Dis-

trica Rally they were selected as the Troop to produce the play.

During the disastrous flood of 1936, the Scouts and Gratz citizens, using the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Kebaugh as the assembly point, responded with such alacrity that the first truck load of food and clothes to reach the stricken area of Harrisburg via Pine Grove came from Gratz.

Members of the first Troop were: Hilda Coleman, Ruth Coleman, Ethel Coleman, Elsie Schminky, Anna Steely, Marie Umholtz, Esther Miller, Romaine Rogers, Mary Miller, Phyllis Hoover, Eleanor Smeltz, Lucille Schminky, Kathryn Deppen, Hilda Bellis, Mabel Bellis, Lorraine Hepler, Fae Enders, Helen Klinger.

—Mae E. Boger

Gratz Girl Scouts

Girl Scouting was first introduced into Gratz in 1932 by Miss Mae Boger, a teacher in the Gratz Elementary Schools. She continued in this work for six years. In 1940 Girl Scouting was again revived by Mrs. Harold Umholtz, wife of the Gratz National Bank cashier, and Miss Doris Updegrave, a teacher in the Gratz Primary School. Mrs. Ethel Umholtz has kept scouting active in Gratz for the past 15 years, serving in various capacities with the changing troop leaders and committee women throughout this period. The present senior troop was formed three years ago by Mrs. Umholtz, with Miss Alma Maurer, a primary teacher in the Gratz School, serving as leader for nearly two years, but who was forced to retire because of ill health. This active troop is registered with the Harrisburg Council of Girl Scouts, and is also under the jurisdiction of The Upper River District Susquehanna Council. The recorded registration is Troop 371, Gratz, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Ethel Umholtz, Leader; Miss Hannah Welker, Assistant Leader; Mrs. Bruce Schwalm, Assistant Leader; Mrs. Fae Stroup, Troop Committee Chairman. Other troop committee women are: Mrs. Clair Romberger, Mrs. Ben Hepler, Mrs. Robert Buffington, and Mrs. Peter Stine. Scouts: Elaine Brosius, Janice Buffington, Phyllis

Cook, Sharon Felsburg, Virginia Kessler, Mary Ellen Lahr, Mary Rebuck, Jean Romberger, Ruby Romberger, Rebecca Stine, Carolyn Straub, Dawn Tice, Harriet Umholtz, and Alice Williard.

The Girl Scout Promise: On my honor, I will try to do my duty, to God and my country, to help others at all times, to obey the Girl Scout Laws.

The Girl Scout Laws:

1. A Girl Scout's honor is to be trusted.
2. A Girl Scout is loyal.
3. A Girl Scout's duty is to be useful and to help others.
4. A Girl Scout is a friend to all and a sister to every other Girl Scout.
5. A Girl Scout is courteous.
6. A Girl Scout is a friend to animals.
7. A Girl Scout obeys orders.
8. A Girl Scout is cheerful.
9. A Girl Scout is thrifty.
10. A Girl Scout is clean in thought, word, and deed.

The Girl Scouts rendered a play in the Gratz Community Center on April 29, 1955. A three act comedy, "My Soldier Girls." It was very much liked. The articulation was good and each played her part well.

—Ethel Umholtz

The Old-Timers

The Old-Timers organization was formed on September 24, 1949 by a group of people who attended Gratz High School in the period of 1905-1910. Since then some older and some younger ones have been added to the organization until today it includes those who were in school before 1925 and their spouses. Included also are the teachers during this period, and folks who were living in the community who were especially cooperative in school activities.

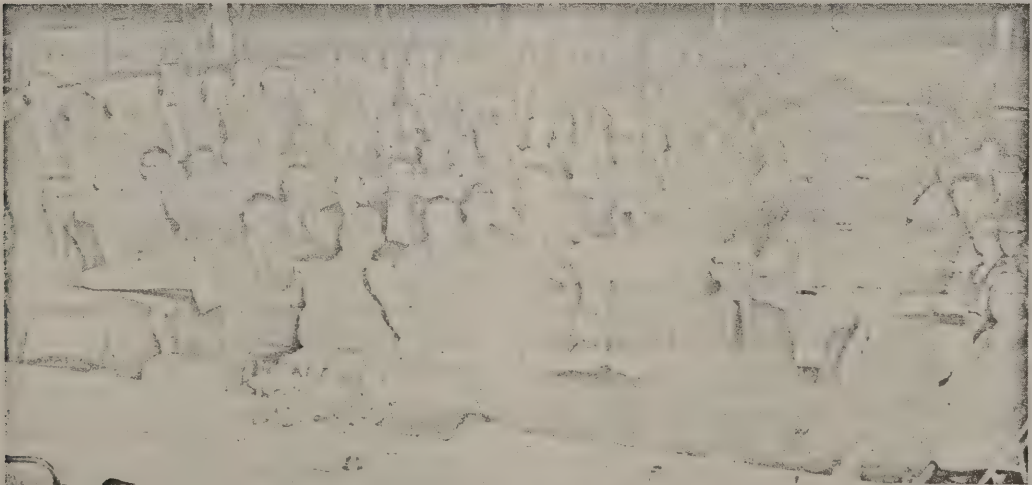
A dinner meeting was held that fall, but since that time the meetings are held in spring.

It is regrettable that facilities are not available to expand the group at the present time.

The following attended the Seventh Annual Reunion Dinner on May 7, 1955:

Blair M. Schminky, Edna Kissinger Schminky, Wilbur E. Buffington, Gertie F. Buffington, Clayton J. Umholtz, Hannah Buffington Umholtz, Raymond J. Coleman, Aline Coleman, Lloyd M. Bellis, Margaret E. Bellis, Thomas R. Hepler, Esther Hepler, John A. Smith, Mrs. John A. Smith, Walter F. Umholtz, Fae Klinger Umholtz, Clayton Hartman, Bessie Klinger Hartman, Henry E. Wenrich, Betty Wenrich, Wallace Kling-

er, Bertie Klinger, Gertrude Lebo Walton, Leroy C. Eckert, Dorothy Fidler Eckert, Florence Moyer Ulrich, John M. Kratzer, Elsie Lebo Kratzer, Mary E. Zerfing, Harry S. Smeltzer, Ann Hepler Smeltzer, Lottie Hepler Ritzman, Hannah Hepler Miller, Ray E. Yeager, Mildred Daniels Yeager, Mahlon S. Reed, Annie Witmer Reed, Luther F. Daniels, Mattie Klinger Daniels, Stanley Klinger, Mary Scheib Klinger, Jean Blyler Downing, Eva Blyler Miller, Bertha Lebo Blyler, Leo F. Rogers, Marlin Umholtz, Laura Matter Umholtz, Lewis M. Hepler, Lottie Schminky Hepler, Gordon Schminky, Jay A. Brosius, Anna Strayer Brosius, Oscar H. Phillips, Margaret Strayer Phillips, Ann Coleman Schurman, Lester C. Buffington, Carrie Buffington, Park E. Burger, Edna Thomas Burger, Mollie Bowman, Lizzie Bowman Hoffman, Clarion H. Strouse, Verna Bowman Strouse, George A. Keener, Ruth Fidler Portzline, David Geb-
erich, Albert M. Zerfing, Amy M. Zerfing, Eva Kissinger Kutz, Thomas Zerbe, Nettie Buffington Zerbe, H. Lee Schreffler, Beulah M. Schreffler, Ruth R. Stiely, Luther R. Klinger, Guy Klinger, Stewart H. Swab, Wealtha Buffington Swab, H. Dewey Schmin-
ky, Dora Schminky, Homer C. Blyler, John F. M. Schminky, Carrie Schminky, Claude S. Buffington, Emma Williard Buffington, Alvin Daniels, Mable Daniels, Robert W. Foster,



Old-Timers' Dinner May 7, 1955

Martha Rogers Foster, Blanche E. Hepler, Ralph H. Witmer, Erma Umholtz Witmer, Art Blyler, Harry C. Zerfing, Mollie Romberger Hoover, Art Dietrich, Flossie Zerfing Dietrich, Roy Schminky, Mable Schminky, Ralph Schminky, Flora Artz Schminky, Em-

ory Daniels, Margaret Daniels, Geo. C. Adams, Anna Buffington Adams, Clayton H. Willier, Mable Willier, Elsie Sitlinger, Ralph F. Troxell, Allen R. Thomas, Irma F. Thomas, Luma Hartman Bellis, Abe Gross, Mae E. Boger.

Gratz Civic Club

The Gratz Civic Club is a local organization that had its inception November 14, 1949, when a group of public-minded citizens conceived the idea they would like to see the Borough of Gratz decorated with Christmas lights.

Funds for this project are raised by monthly card parties, drawings, and the generosity of the people in Gratz who feel the project is a worthy one. Their contributions are in cakes, prizes, and cash donations.

In 1949 the plaza was lighted with a canopy of red lights running across the street, Stars of Bethlehem above the streamers at intervals, and Santa Claus faces in the square. Each year more squares were added

until in 1954 the entire Market Street was lighted. Permanent fixtures and electric timers were added to help make this project something that will endure for years.

The original officers were: President, Norman Sitlinger; Secretary, Mae E. Boger; Treasurer, Mrs. Helen Horn. During 1951 Mrs. Ralph Witmer served as secretary.

The present officers are: President, Mr. Irvin Adams; Secretary, Mae Boger; Treasurer, Mrs. Helen A. Horn.

In 1955 the Civic Club sponsored the Red Cross Drive and exceeded the quota set for this locality. Mrs. Helen Horn headed the Drive.

—Mae E. Boger

Junior Band Association

Gratz and Lykens Township organized a Junior Band Association in conjunction with the new school merger that is in process of being formed, which will make us part of the Upper Dauphin Joint School District. Fifty patrons joined the Association. Funds for the organization were raised by the sale

of Easter eggs, which netted the Junior Band \$350.

Mr. Peter Carpenter is the instructor. Officers for the Junior Band Association are: President, Ray Zimmerman; Secretary, Mae E. Boger; Treasurer, Mrs. Ward Roadcap.

—Mae E. Boger

PART V

INDUSTRIES

Gratz Stone Quarries

The earliest sidewalks in Gratz were made of flagstones. These stones were of a hard red shale rock. They were from 3 to 4 inches thick and ranged from 3'x4' to 4'x6' in size. You may be able to find some of these stones in some of the back yards in town. Some of the farms west of Gratz have some in the path from the house to the barn yard.

One stone quarry was on the Uriah Daniel Estate. The stone masons cut most of the rock strata and cut them to the sizes the people desired. It was called the mand blue rock. They were hauled by the four-horse team on the large stone bed wagon to Gratz.

The larger one was on the Amsterdam farm, which is now part of Charles Klinger's farm. The place is marked by a woods growing around it. Here is where tons and tons of stone were quarried till Gratz and

the farms and nearby towns had their stone walks. These walks were in use in Gratz till about the 20th century. Then came the cement industry and now we have the concrete pavements in town. What a pleasure it would be if our grandfathers could take a walk through town today.

One of the Amsterdam farms owned by Joseph Willier, grandson of John Peter, and now owned by Mabel E. Willier, has one of these walks in the yard. They are sunk down till they are almost covered with grass. It must have been laid by Joseph Willier when he built the house and barn on the place. He sold the farm to Jonas Dockey, a descendant of the Hessies of Germany that had settled south of Siona (Stone Valley) Church. The sale price was \$11,000. Joseph moved to Pillow.

—C. H. Willier

Coal Industry

Coal was first discovered in 1825 on the Gratz Mountain by Jacob Burd, Sr. and Peter Kimes at the lower end of Short Mountain, Lykens Township. They had gone out on a Sunday morn for a walk. Reaching the top of the mountain, they paused, and, one, having a stick in his hand carelessly dug in the earth, when he revealed black dirt. This gave rise to the opinion that there must be coal in the mountain. A short time afterward a wagon road was made and men commenced to dig. This was the beginning of the coal operations, which gave rise to the Lykens Valley, Short Mountain, and Franklin Coal Companies.

This was the same year that anthracite coal was first burned successfully in Philadelphia; and its advocates, after having un-

dergone the usual derision that men of new and progressive ideas have to contend with, began to reap their reward. This combination of circumstances determined the action of the shrewd Simon Gratz. He at once bought the land in and east of the Gap, 300 acres from one Frey, its owner up to that time. He began to mine and sold coal in 1832. The tract of land, before comparatively worthless, now became an object of great commercial value, the richness of the coal being fully established as the very best red ash, heavy, and containing 89% of fixed carbon. This helped to settle and prosper this section for 150 years. Simon Gratz was possessed of rather large means and visited the region frequently, taking great interest in its development. Work was now begun

in the drifts in the Gap of Bear Creek as it was first called. When coal was found this part of the country was wild and seemed far removed in the woods. Lykens Valley mines

shipped in 1848, 48,481 tons. The Pennsylvania Canal on the river shipped 3,234,781 tons.

—C. H. Willier

Industries of Gratz And The Valley

The Gratz Shirt Factory began operating in 1911. It was operated by local ownership for a long time.



Heim's Body Shop— $\frac{1}{4}$ mile north of town

Other industries are Body and Fender Works, The Blacksmith and Welding, Four Garages. Lettich's specializes in radiator repairs, Adams' in welding and painting, Daniels' farm machinery and repairs, Stroup's cars rebuilt.



Kratzer's Blacksmith Shop

The coal industry helped to make Gratz and the valley famous in the last half of the nineteenth and first quarter of the twentieth century. Since coal was discovered in 1825 the valley took very rapid and progressive strides.



Allen E. Daniel & Sons' Garage

Farming is one of the great industries. Farmers are experimenting in new lines of activities. The yield of potatoes in the 60's and 70's was very small per acre, rarely more than 80 bushels, due to lack of knowledge. Now we have our 400-bushel clubs.



Modern Potato Digger
Robert Umholtz (standing) and Freeman Willier

Farmer Swartz, north of Gratz, by using a new method, irrigation, produced 710 bushels to the acre. Freeman Willier on the Amsterdam farm northwest of Gratz, raised 477.5 bushels to the acre with no irrigation process.

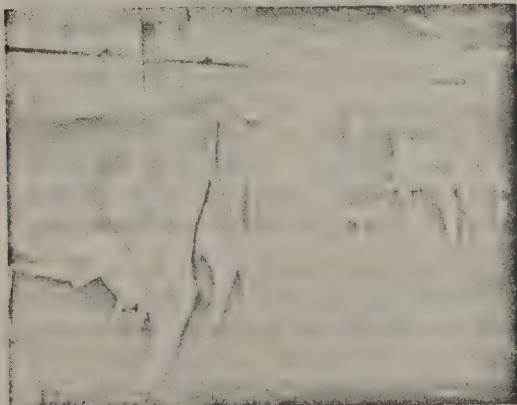
The Poultry Industry came into the valley on a commercial basis in the nineties. Now we have the large poultry plants around Gratz. The Shades, Hartman, Klingers, Swartz, and others. They run from 2,000 to 20,000 capacity.



Allen L. Shade's Mill, Storage House and Poultry Barn

The one north of Gratz has a 13,000 broiler capacity. The valley is also dotted with turkey farms. The one nearest Gratz is at "Luxinsborick", the Mabel Daniel farm, from 1200 to 2500 capacity.

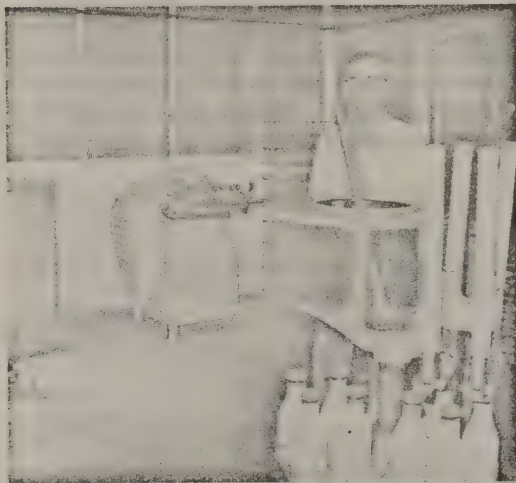
The dairying industry is also receiving more attention than formerly. Until about forty years ago there were still many people in town who owned small farms on the outskirts of the village, and kept some livestock,



Part of Lewis Hepler's Golden Guernsey herd

including cows. These cows were the source of the milk supply for virtually the whole town. John Schminky had established a small milk route, but up to about World War I most of the milk was produced by cows owned locally.

Since those days dairying has become more important. Eston Hoffman has been running a dairy in Gratz for about twenty-five years, and handles most of the milk produced. Others collecting milk in the area are L. Allen Kimmel, of Valley View, and the Lykens Dairy.

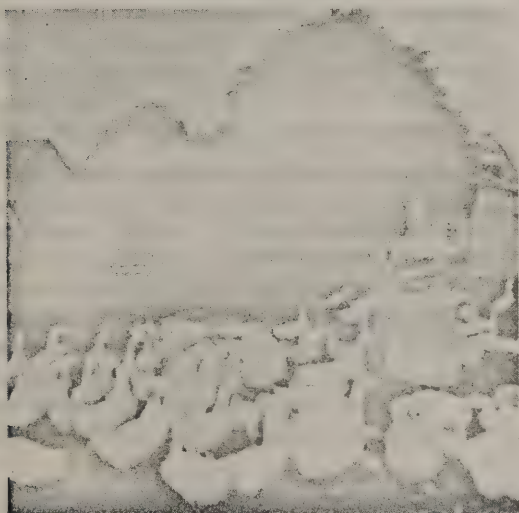


Eston Hoffman and his modern dairy equipment

Another money crop that came into the valley about 7 years ago was the canning crop. A station is located at Gratz. They produce peas, tomatoes, beans, and lima beans. Six years ago there were few 10-ton tomato crops per acre. Now we have 15 to 25 tons to the acre. A recent survey was made and the result was that Gratz and vicinity raised the best tomatoes in the country. Next to California fruit for flavor, color and taste. So these are crops the farmers should consider. Also the vinery furnishes cheap silage for cattle and dairy farmers. The Gratz dairyman reports he had enough silage till the next crop comes along.

The peaches grown on the Gratz farms are superior in flavor to any grown this side of Hawaii. The apple crop in the valley is of recent development. The pioneers

planted a few varieties around the house and along the fences for their own use. "Snitz pie" and "apple butter" was found in the larder of every housewife. "Snitz and knepp" was a delicious dish of our great-grandmothers. Snitzing parties were among the leading festivities of the younger set of the nineteenth century, as social gatherings at the homes. Apples and cider were passed around while the events of the day were discussed. It is known today that the valley is peculiarly adapted to give that delicious flavor so much desired in an apple.



Mabel E. Willier feeding her Pekin ducks

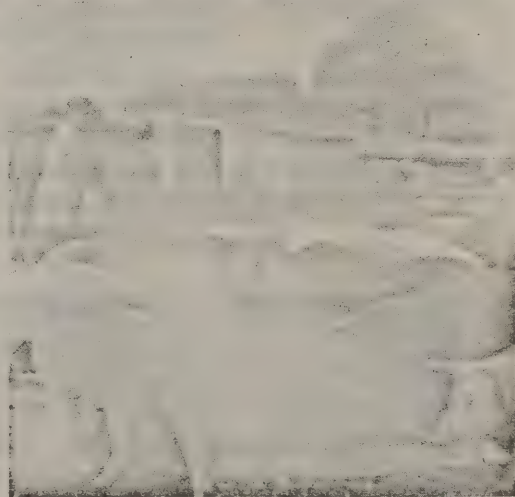
Elmer Blyler has 32 acres in fruit of bearing age. The western end has many trees. The upper end has about 14,000 apple trees. When all come to bearing age it is estimated the annual crop will be 100,000 bushels.

The coal industry has become past history with only a few individual outcrop mines in existence. All the mines on Short Mountain are closed. The only one at the upper end of the valley is the Otto Colliery near Fountain, employing about 50 men.

Many of the people of Gratz secure employment in the factories at Millersburg. Others are employed at Harrisburg Steel, Bethlehem Steel at Steelton and Middletown Air Depot. If you are lucky you may have a position on Capitol Hill.

So the future of Gratz and community is the farming industry. The farms are now laid out in strips from 20 to 200 feet wide. This is called "strip farming" and is done to save the good earth for the next generation and not allow it to be washed into the sea. Our great-grandchildren will be proud to live here when the earth is restored to its paradise condition.

In speaking of apples, do you know that the famous Summer Rambo apple, now grown in the valley at Gratz and other sections of the State was discovered in Lykens Valley? This tree bearing the fruit was first found on Benjamin Reigle's farm near the Reigle Church about 10 miles west of Gratz, and is one of the choicest varieties of the present market. The farmers did their own grafting and transplanting and



Mabel E. Willier feeding some of the 42 hogs she has on pasture

raised and developed from this beginning until now the apple is one of the nation's choicest fruits.

At first the farmers raised only enough food for their own consumption. Later they had more land cleared so they followed a five-year rotation, grass, grass, corn, oats, and rye or wheat. New land was generally put into buckwheat for several years "to tame it." Each farmer raised an acre or two of flax, for the family's clothing. Father did the cleaning and hackling of the

flax and mother and daughter did the spinning and weaving and made the homespun into garments. The mines for coal came with an increase in population. Demand came for potatoes. The farmers started to raise more than they needed. "The farmer

feeds them all." Just travel the valley to Gratz and see the beautiful farms. You always see "green" in the beautiful Lykens Valley.

—C. H. Willier

The Gratz Shirt Factory

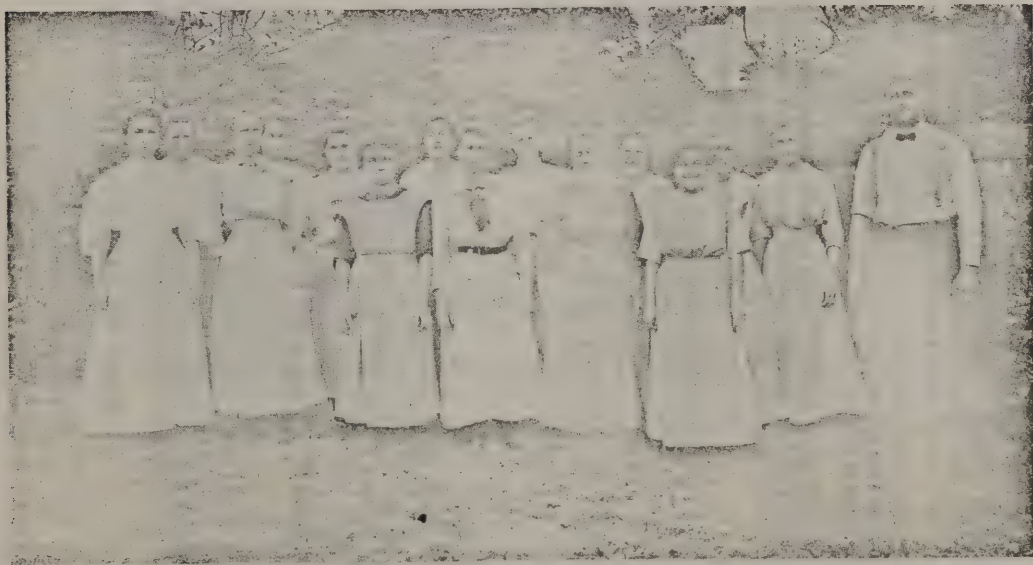
The original building of this factory was built in 1910 by the Odd Fellows on the rear of the lot upon which their hall stands. In April, 1911, the factory began to operate under the management of Harry T. Yoder. This was ten years before electricity was brought to Gratz, and power for the machines was produced by a steam engine.

Mr. Yoder operated the factory for about ten years, and then sold it to Oscar Clark and Roscoe Blyler. After about five years Clark sold his share to Blyler, who became the sole manager, ably assisted by his wife, the former Grayce Ritzman. They operated the factory until Mr. Blyler's death in 1948. The Dormar Manufacturing Company then purchased the property and enlarged it. About 1950 the new management bought a

tract of land almost directly across the alley and erected a 200-foot cutting and pressing plant. Until that time the cutting was done in other plants. All operations in the manufacture of shirts, cutting, stitching, pressing and packing, are now done in the local factory. The shirts are transported to New York in large trailer vans.

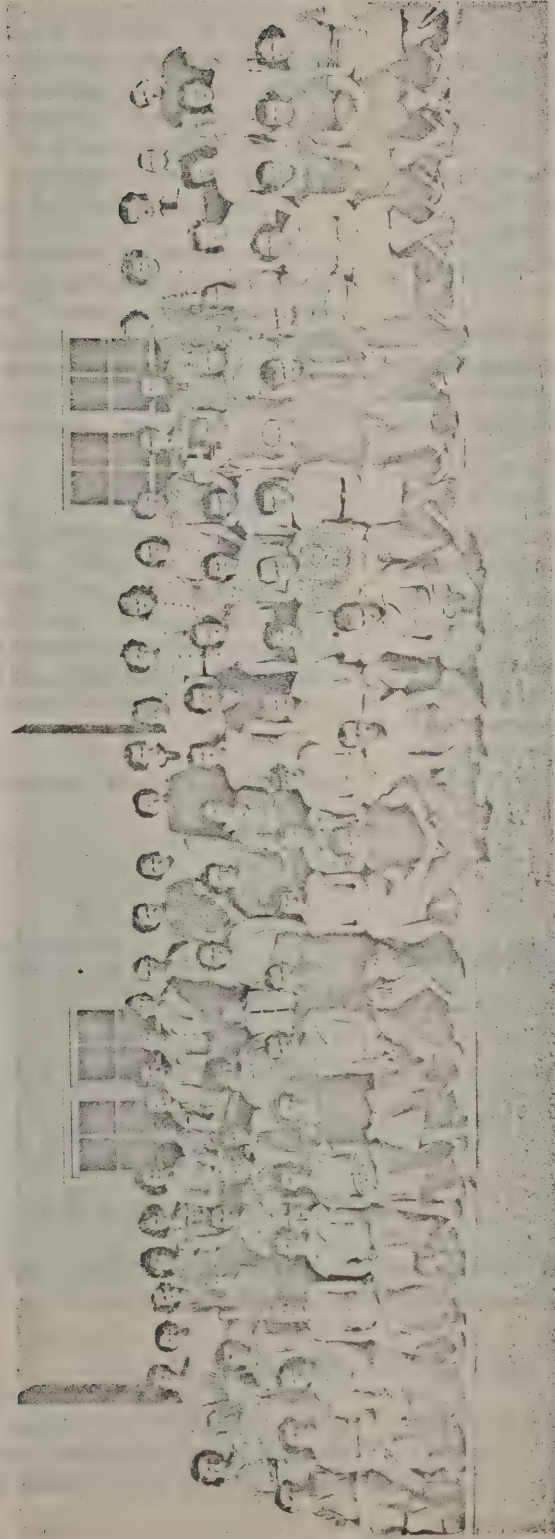
The new concrete building was gutted by fire in 1952. Repairs were made and the building was enlarged.

There are now close to 200 employees. They manufacture about a thousand dozen shirts per week. Max Reischman is the general manager of the Dormar Manufacturing Company and Harold Yates is the local manager.



First Employees of Gratz Shirt Factory March 14, 1911—Left to right: Della Saltzer, Jennie Clark, Grayce Ritzman, Ruth Pinkerton, Bertha Unger, Ella Witmer, Margaret Strayer, Edna Reed, Viola Wiest, Gertie Witmer, Lizzie Bowman, Sula Witmer, Carrie Umholtz, Stella Starr, Harry T. Yoder, Manager

SOME OF THE DORMAR MANUFACTURING COMPANY EMPLOYEES IN 1953



Boys in front (left to right)—Russell Smeltz, Pete Hartman, Clarence Keim.

FRONT ROW—Grace Williard, Mollie Romberger, Lillian Stiely, Hannah Maurer, Elsie Felsburg, Ethel Hoke, Josephine Snyder, Carl Snyder, Hiram Chubb, Arlene Tobias, Phyllis Sitlinger, Betty Tobias, Harold Yates, Kathryn Wiest, Clarence Enders, Joanne Shade, Paul Miller, Darwin Daniel, Carrie Phillips, Lottie Hepler, Laura Dietrich, Maude Bucher, Hilda Miller.

SECOND ROW—Olive Daniel, Hazel Davis, June Heim, Anna Oxenrider, Geneva Snyder, Elsie Sitlinger, Marie Kissinger, Anna Miller, Violet Wolfgang, Anna Romberger, Laura Evitts, Alma Klinger, Anna Sitlinger, Martha Martz, Irene Kessler, Salen Buffington, Louise Kessler, Daisy Koppenhaver, Mae Williard, Lottie Smeltz, Arlene Williard, Vivian Bowman, Martha Straub.

THIRD ROW—Grace Keim, Ruth Markle, Hilda Buffington, Helen Heddings, Evelyn Sitlinger, Martha Sitlinger, Joyce Laudenslager, Daisy Enders, Arlene Bordner, Mary Byerly, Martha Kessler, Mabel Daniel, Pauline Rebeck, Helen Ramberger, Margaret Phillips, Kathryn Matter, Edna Hess, Katie Straub, Ethel Rothermel, Ethel Martz, Esther Williard, Elda Wilmer, Marie Wiest, Freida Koppenhaver, Mary Wiest, Mary Hoffman, Fae Seiders, Mazie Hopple.

The Hanover Canning Company

The most recent industry to come into our area is the Hanover Canning Company which has a pea-hulling plant and receiving station on the Schminky farm south of the Fair Grounds. The headquarters and main plant of the company are at Hanover. Charles I. Keiter is the local manager.

For the past eleven years the company has made contracts with the farmers of this and neighboring valleys to produce peas snap beans, tomatoes and baby lima beans for them. From early spring until the first killing frost in fall the company keeps the farmers busy producing for them.

Seed peas are provided for the farmers by the company. These the farmers drill into the ground as soon as weather and soil conditions permit. When the crop matures the company cuts the crop and hulls the peas at the local plant. The peas are rushed to Hanover in refrigerated truck for processing. After the pea crop is harvested a crop of baby limas is usually produced in the same field.

Some farmers also produce snap beans.

But the favorite crop seems to be tomatoes. The Hanover Company has its own special brand of tomatoes. They grow the plants in Georgia and transport them in trucks for the spring planting season. These are set out with the company's transplanting machines. When the crop matures the tomatoes are delivered to the local receiving station and rushed to Hanover in large trucks.

Considerable local labor is employed, but each year the company finds it necessary to import Porto Ricans to do the tomato and snap bean picking.

Last year the Gratz area produced 580 tons of peas and 4506 tons of tomatoes.

After the peas are hulled farmers are glad for the hulls and other remains. This provides excellent silage for livestock and green manure.

The Hanover Company was incorporated in 1924 and has made remarkable progress. They have twelve company-operated farms and have contract growers from Maryland to the New York state line.



An October Rush of Tomatoes at the Hanover Canning Company plant

Industries Of The Past

With the passing of the years some rather important industries have departed from the local scene. This article will be

limited to four of these: Lumbering, brick-making, tanning and threshing.

Lumbering

Lumbering was the most important of these, both from the standpoint of the number of men employed and the monetary value of the product. When the settlements in the valley were first made, there was an excellent stand of virgin timber, not only at the mountains but in the valley as well. The early settler did not have expensive lumber shipped in from other parts of the country. On the land he had taken up he found an ample supply of pine, oak, chestnut, hickory and other trees standing ready for his axe. These trees grew in such abundance that, after he had used all he needed in the building of his own log house, log barn and other buildings, there was still so much left standing that he cut down many trees, dragged them together into huge piles, and burned them so that he might have sufficient cleared land for growing crops.

Here and there some farmer left a grove of this virgin timber standing on his farm, but these groves, too, have slowly but surely become the victims of the axe and more recently, the chain saw.

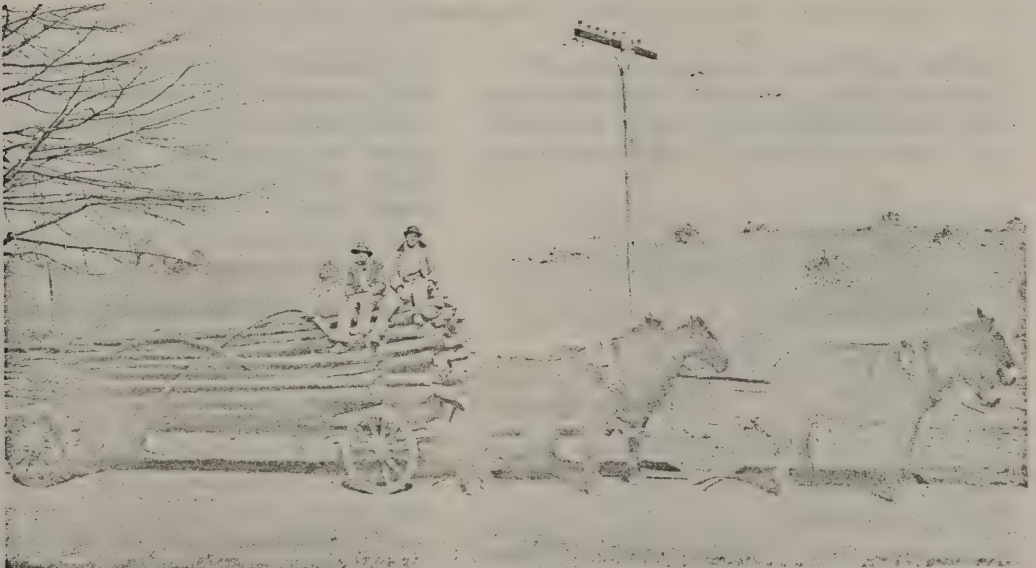
The early settlers found ample timber in the valley, and did not have to resort to the more difficult lumbering at the mountains.

Seventy-five or more years ago the only stand of any account was at the mountains, and for approximately fifty years this mountain timber was harvested without abandon. Older people will recall the time when one could drive the length of the valley and see at various places along the bases of both the Short and Mahantango mountains the tell-tale smoke of the steam engine laboriously turning the whirring circular saw at a saw-mill.

At these sawmills was produced the rough framing lumber for many homes now standing in the valley. All the lumber that went into the construction of a barn came from this source. Finishing lumber for homes has come from distant mills for many years.

Many trees were cut down and hewn into railroad ties. Frequently in spring the bark was peeled from the trees and sold to the local tanneries for use in the tanning of leather.

After the choice trees had been cut, the less likely ones, too crooked or too thin to produce lumber, likewise were given to the axe and sold to the coal companies for the



Aaron Willier hauling mine timber about 1913. Little fellow who came along in time to have his picture taken is Norman Daniel. Notice storm-damaged fodder shocks in background.

making of props and laggings used to support the top in gangways and tunnels.

Even the slabs were in great demand. The hungry maw of the steam engine fire-box had first call on these; the rest were sold to householders for stove wood, or perhaps for apple butter making or a country butchering. Sawdust likewise was in demand for bedding for cattle, or as an insulator in the farmer's icehouse.

Brick-Making

Somewhat akin to the lumbering industry, but never so important was the manufacturing of brick. The bricks in the walls of the old brick houses on the farms in the valley were nearly all produced right there on the farm. The subsoil on parts of many farms is a clay which lends itself well to the making of brick. On some farms there was such a supply of clay that the farmer, if he had a desire to augment his income, could engage in the manufacture of bricks, which he sold to people building homes in the towns, or perchance for the laying of a sidewalk. The bricks for Simeon's Church and

Destructive lumbering indeed! Fifty years ago Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot were preaching the conservation of natural resources. Among other things they recommended was that for every tree cut down one must be planted. But their voices fell on deaf and unheeding ears. Vision was lacking. Had these men in the lumbering industry hearkened to the warning voices of these great statesmen, it would probably not cost a small fortune to build a six-room house today.

the schoolhouses in the borough and the township were all of local manufacture.

According to the old maps there were about half a dozen of these brickyards in the vicinity, two in the borough, and the others in the township. One of the largest of these was on the farm now owned by Frank Hess. Another one was on the farm operated by Charles Hess, the present Clyde Snyder farm. Here W. Arthur Hess as a boy worked for his father, and is probably the last living brick maker in the vicinity. The last brickyard was along the Mahantango Mountain on the Crawley farm. This was operated by Henry Williard until about 1906.

Tanning

Our older residents well remember the tannery at the western end of town. This was one of about half a dozen tanning enterprises in the valley. Another in our immediate vicinity, the Scheib tannery, stood slightly to the east of Harry Unger's home, at the intersection of the road going to Coleman's Church.

The Gratz tannery was built by Daniel Good and Samuel Ritter about 1835. Some years later this partnership was dissolved, and Mr. Good became the sole owner and operator. In 1893 Michael Hartman bought the tannery from the Good family and began operating it. After his death it was operated by his son Charles until about 1913. The Scheib tannery ceased operating about the same time. Samuel Wise was the boss tanner for the Hartmans.

The small tanneries passed into oblivion quite suddenly. For many years there was a need for them. Until a generation or two ago, there were no refrigerator cars. In-



The old tannery which stood southeast of Clair Romberger's home

stead of slaughtering the animals at the Chicago or Buffalo stockyards and shipping the meat east in refrigerator cars, as is today's practice, the live steers were shipped east.

These steers were handled by drovers who purchased them at the stockyards, shipped them east, unloaded them at the railroad station, and drove them through the valley over the public roads to the butchers in the various towns, who slaughtered them in their shops. Henry Tobias, and later his son Charles, were engaged in this business. Elmer Clark can tell you readers all about driving steers who were determined to turn into every lane instead of keeping on the proper course. Perhaps some divine instinct briefed them on what was waiting for them at the end of the line!

The Hartmans had a regular hide-collecting route through the Lykens and neigh-

The Threshing Industry

For about fifty years threshing of grain was done on the farms, usually in the barn, with the large threshing machines driven by the power generated by a steam traction engine.



Threshing machine supplanted by the combine about ten years ago. Pictured are Harry Henninger and sons Kermit and Harold.

At the turn of the century there were still a few treadmill-operated outfits in use, but even at that early date the threshermen using the outfits operated by a traction engine had almost a monopoly of the business.

One recalls with a bit of nostalgia the rigs on the highways, always in a hurry to get to the next task. The Laudenslagers were probably the kings of the industry, chiefly because for many years they had two rigs in operation. "Old Joe" and some hired

boring valleys. On these trips they bought the hides of these animals from the butchers, and also hides from farmers along the road who had done a country butchering.

For many years there was a great demand for this locally-tanned leather. In by-gone days there were many more horses in use than today. People depended on the horse for hauling lumber, coal, et cetera, on the roads and for pulling the machinery on the farm. This required plenty of good leather harness. Also in those days many shoes were still made by hand. Many people still living wore shoes made by Joseph Romberger and William Unger.

When these needs for leather locally passed out of the picture, the small tanneries closed up one by one and by about 1915 they had all given up the ghost.

help operated the one outfit and Newt and Charles the other. "Young Joe" and "Little Harry" took care of the farming.

Other threshers coming to mind were Frank Hoover, Elmer Klinger, Nelson Hoke and Theodore Rabuck. Later came Ben Weiss, George Hartman and Luther Klinger. These later ones began using modern gasoline tractors for power.



Traction engine provided belt power for threshing machine

With the advent of the combination harvester and thresher, popularly called the combine, the threshing industry passed out of the picture very rapidly. One must go far to see the kind of rig that was common only fifteen years ago.

—Lloyd M. Bellis

PART VI

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

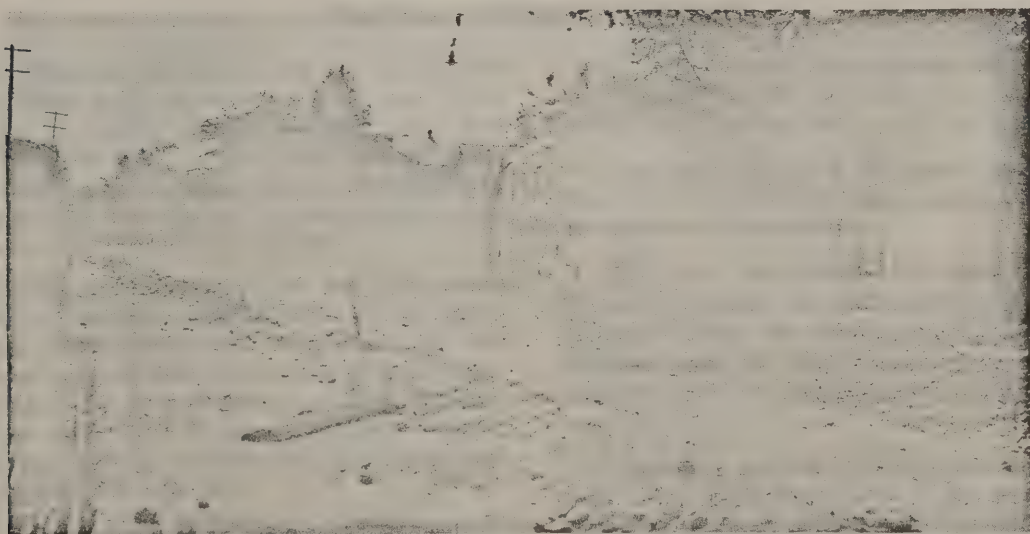
Roads To Gratz And The Valley

The earliest map of this Valley shows the Tulpehocken Trail, coming through Rausch Gap down the valley along the Pine Creek through Klingerstown Gap to the Susquehanna River, and thence along the river to Sunbury. The other one led west through Gratz to Hain's (Pillow) Gap, northwest to the Susquehanna at Herndon, thence along the Susquehanna Trail north to Ft. Augusta (Sunbury) or south to Harris Ferry.

The Old Reading Road was built in 1800. It led from the Blue Mountain north of Reading, through Rausch Gap down the valley to Gratz along the Short Mountain to the Forge, and west to Millersburg. The Pottsville Road was built about twenty years later. Route 25 is the main thoroughfare from Gratz eastward to the Sherman Mountain, and westward to Millersburg, a total distance of 38 8/10 miles. A macadam road crosses at Gratz from Erdman to Loyaltown.

Route 209 is the main highway along Berry's Mountain to the Susquehanna. At the end of Short Mountain the valley is at its widest point from Pillow Gap to Loyaltown, 5 2/10 miles. The upper end of the valley has three leading roads connecting to the Old Mine Road 209. The upper end is crossed by Route 125. Five miles below Gratz, 225 crosses the valley from Elizabethville to Pillow Gap, and connects with the main roads north, or northeast to the proposed New Turnpike.

Gratz is on about the highest part of the ridge. From various parts one can see east or west in the valley. A black top road also runs along the Mahantango Mountain from Millersburg to Mabel. Below Gratz the valley is narrowed by Short Mountain. The part south of Short Mountain is named Williams Valley. The eastern part is again broken by Little Mountain north of Hegins. The valley extends about six miles east on



Grading for concrete highway through town

the north portion to the Sherman Mountain at Gordon.

Why not drive through the beautiful Lykens Valley to view the beautiful farms, and towns, with the church spires in between? A picture no painter has color to mock.

Route 25 does not always follow the center of the ridge. The ridge is cut through at several places by streams at Killinger and east of Gratz by the Pine Creek, which flows through Rausch Gap and Klingerstown Gap at Erdman. The upper part of the valley is only three miles wide.

Be sure to take a Saturday afternoon drive on Route 25 to Gratz and the valley.

It is one you will not find in forty-eight states of U.S.A. There is one spot in the valley on Route 067 where you will drive through a woods of mighty oaks, which speaks of the fertile soil surrounding Gratz.

In 1927 the present cement road was built. The steam shovel came through Gratz, to start the concrete road. It started at the upper end of town, at East Street, and continued west on Market and down the valley. It is now concreted from Millersburg to Gratz, fifteen miles of the beautiful valley. The main road was closed. People had to detour over different roads till the concrete road was finished. Many people in town secured work. Rufus Willier was the sprinkler.

—C. H. Willier

First Houses In Gratz

Ludwig Schoffstall, who came from Lancaster County, built the first log house in Gratz, a two-story structure where Mark Kebaugh now lives. The second was built by Lewis Faust. He sold it to Reverend William Hedel, belongs to the estate of A. K. Hepler, deceased. The third was built by George Feagley. The fourth by Adonijah Matthias, a Frenchman. His name was found in Leonard Reedy's book. The fifth was oc-

cupied by George Crapp, a tenant of Mr. Wise. Buildings followed in succession, log dwellings: Bellow, Faust, Rev. Handel, Daniel Fegley, Squire Leonard Reedy and John Richard.

A grist mill was built quite early about a quarter of a mile from town by John Sallade and ran by a stream of water beginning at the cold spring. A wheel over 20 feet high was built to run the mill.

The Year Without A Summer

Those of us who are on the wrong side of fifty will remember that in our youth the old people used to relate a story told them by their fathers and grandfathers about a year in which there was frost every month of the year and a heavy sticky snow when the rye was in blossom.

The story continued to the effect that after this late snowfall some of the farmers were fearful that they would not get any rye, at that time one of the major crops. To help matters, as they thought, two men with a rope stretched between them, walked through the rye fields and stripped off the snow.

Other farmers let nature take its course. These were the wise ones. They got a fair

yield. The farmers who removed the snow got virtually no crop, because they had removed the blossoms along with the snow.

This story intrigued the writer, and he has, over a period of many years, picked up additional information.

The year was 1816. Of course this freakish weather was not confined to the Lykens Valley. It covered not only the northern part of the United States, but England and the northern part of Europe as well.

The early months of 1816 were quite mild. Beginning about April 1, the weather got progressively colder, and by May 1, there was plenty of snow, and ice formed on

still waters. Farmers planted corn, only to have it killed by frost. In many places replantings also froze.

During June there was a seven-inch snowfall in New York state and Massachusetts. Vermont reported a ten-inch fall on June 16. The northern part of Pennsylvania reported ice as thick as a window pane early in July.

And it could happen again! Students of climate say it can. Dr. Hurd C. Willet, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a lifetime student of climate, who has studied the records for as far back as 1750, says climate runs in forty-year high-low cycles. That is, for forty years the climate gradually becomes warmer, and for the next

forty years colder. The year 1816 fell in the middle of the forty-year cold period.

According to Dr. Willet, the winter of 1955-1956 falls at the close of a 40-year warm period, and for the rest of the century our winters will gradually become colder and the summers wetter.

It is possible that the present younger generation, when they become old, will have to cope with the kind of winter weather that we oldsters enjoyed when we were young.

At any rate, if grandpop's felt boots are still in the attic, don't let the good wife throw them out. You may need them sometime during the next forty years.

—Lloyd M. Bellis

Gratz Prices In 1825

2 bushels rye 56c, 2 pounds butter 14c, 2 bushels wheat \$1.20, 4 bushels rye \$1.00, 1 pound sugar 12½c, ½bushel apples 10c, buckwheat 25c a bushel, ½bushel Indian corn 15c, 2 quarts whiskey 20c, 1 quart rum 14c, peck of oats 12½c, 4 pounds sole leather \$1.12, weaving tow strip 7c per yard, ½

bushel potatoes 15c, ½ day pulling flax 12½c, 1 day cutting wood 50c, 3 pounds wool for \$1.50.—C. H. W.

If any of you readers are whiskey lovers you picked the wrong time to be born.—L. M. B.

Wages Paid For Farm Labor

This shows the wages paid for various work done on the farm. The wages for the farm laborers did not increase very much in the last half of the 19th Century.

1853—Henry Hartman, making oats, half day\$.25
1853—Henry Hartman, hauling stone, one day50
1858—Henry Hartman, gleaning weed, one day50
1854—Jacob Hoover, threshing, one day50
1854—Elias Swab, loading dung, two days 1.25
1855—Thomas Enterline, raking and binding, one day62½

1854—Charles Stine, grating oats, one day 1.00
1855—Benjamin Swab, making rails, one day57½
1855—J. E. Koppenheffer, picking potatoes, three days 1.87½
1855—J. E. Koppenheffer, mowing grass, two days 1.50
1858—Benjamin Swab, splitting wood, half day31¼
1855—Benjamin Swab, chopping wood, four days 2.10
1858—Benjamin Swab, making saw-log, three days 1.50
1855—Jacob Hoover, butcher, one day62½

1858—Benjamin Swab, mowing clover seed, half day .....	.37½	1861—Aaron Matter, planting corn, quarter of a day .....	.16
1858—Benjamin Swab, threshing clover seed, one day .....	.62½	1862—Daniel Koppenheffer, splitting rails, two days	1.25
1859—Benjamin Swab, grating rye, one day	1.25	1863—Henry Hartman, grating, one day	1.25
1859—Benjamin Swab, gleaning new land, half day .....	.31	1863—Henry Hartman, threshing, one day .....	.75
1859—Henry Hartman, breaking stone, two days	1.00	1864—Jacob Hartman, hauling corn feed home, one day	1.00
1860—Henry Hartman, threshing, three quarters of a day .....	.37½	1866—David Booner, making 25 panels of fence	2.90
1859—Aaron Matter, raking and binding, two days and a half....	1.56	1865—David Koppenheffer, raking oats, one day	1.50
1859—Daniel Koppenheffer, husking corn, four days	2.00	1869—Henry Hartman, peeling bark, two days	2.00
1859—Henry Hartman, threshing oats, three-quarters day .....	.31	1870—Henry Hartman, driving cat- tle, one day	1.00
1861—Henry Hartman, butcher, one day .....	.50	1870—Samuel Clark, filling ice house, one day	1.00
1861—Aaron Matter, spraying lime, one day .....	.62½	1875—Jones Deibler, making 11 posts	1.02

—C. H. Willier

Farm Prices And Wages 50 Years Ago

Farm prices and wages fifty years ago, just one hundred years after the founding of Gratz, were as follows:

Wheat	\$.73 per bu.
Corn .....	.58 per bu.
Oats .....	.36 per bu.
Rye .....	.60 per bu.
Buckwheat .....	.50 per bu.
Timothy Seed	15.00 per bu.
Potatoes .....	.60 per bu.
Apples .....	.50 per bu.
Clover Hay	12.50 per ton
Fat Steers .....	.05 per lb.

Fat Hogs .....	.08 per lb.
Eggs .....	.17 per doz.
Butter .....	.22 per lb.

Good horses averaged about \$140 per head; mules, about \$125; milk cows, \$35.

Farms sold at an average price of \$50 per acre.

Wages for farm hands, with keep, per year averaged \$148. Hired men for summer only received about \$17 and keep per month. Per day wages, with two meals, were \$1.00.

—C. H. Willier

BUSINESS DIRECTORY OF GRATZ—1875

Name	Dates of Settlement	Nativity	Post Office	Description of Business
Buffington, Jacob Sr.	1801	Penna.	Gratz	retired farmer, hotel keeper, ex-commissioner
Boyer, J. F.	1853	"	"	farmer
Buffington, Amos	1828	"	"	farmer and brick maker
Coleman, C. A.	1844	"	"	farmer and stock dealer
Dockey, B. H.	1848	"	Pillow	farmer
Evitts, B. J. Capt.	1823	"	Berrysburg	farmer
Fidler, Franklin	1835	"	Gratz	carpenter, contractor, and burgess
Good, H. W.	1852	"	"	dry goods dealer, groceries, notions, queensware
Hepler, A. K. & Isaac.....	1838-36	"	"	dry goods dealer, groceries, queensware, notions, Prop. Lykens Valley Hotel
Hoffman, William	1820	"	"	merchant tailor, dealer in all kinds of merchandise
Hoffman, John T.	1837	"	"	farmer
Hoffman, John W.	1843	"	"	teacher
Kissinger, P.	1832	"	"	farmer
Laudenslager, John	1845	"	"	teacher
Romberger, S. B.	1845	"	"	farmer, dealer in leather and hides
Suender, C. E.	1847	"	"	physician
Schminky, Isaiah	1832	"	"	physician
Schoffstall, H. W.	1839	"	"	teacher, and agent for Grover & Baker sewing machines
Shiro, Jacob	1845	Germany	"	farmer, mine owner, merchant
Sitlinger, Isaac	1832	Penna.	"	miner, and farmer
Schreiner, H. B.	1820	"	"	farmer, fruit & hay grower, Prop. grist mill, member of Railroad and Coal Company
Scheib, William	1838	"	"	farmer, tanner, leather dealer
Umholtz, Jonas	1842	"	"	farmer
Weis, Andrew	1851	Germany	"	miner and farmer
Williard, George R.	1830	Penna.	Berrysburg	farmer
Wolf, Michael	1827	"	Gratz	farmer, stock dealer
Zerfing, Elias	1840	"	"	carpenter, contractor and farmer

Honor Rolls Of Our Various Wars

Some of the members of the Book Committee spent considerable time in collecting the names of the men who served their Country in its various wars. Every effort was made to have each list complete, but readers will probably find that some names are missing. If this is the case, the committee regrets the omission and will be very happy to have readers submit the names of those who should have been included.

The greatest difficulty encountered in assembling the names was the fact that neither the records of the Grand Army of the Republic nor the American Legion could or would be produced by any one.

The lists as we have them, follow:

Revolutionary War

John Bordner
Andrew Daniel
Matthias Deibler

John Nicholas Hoffman
Jacob Huber

George Moyer
Henry Umholtz
John Peter Willier

War of 1812

Daniel Hoffman
John Hoffman

Nicholas Hoffman
Peter Hoffman
Leonard Reedy

Henry Umholtz
Peter Willier

Mexican War

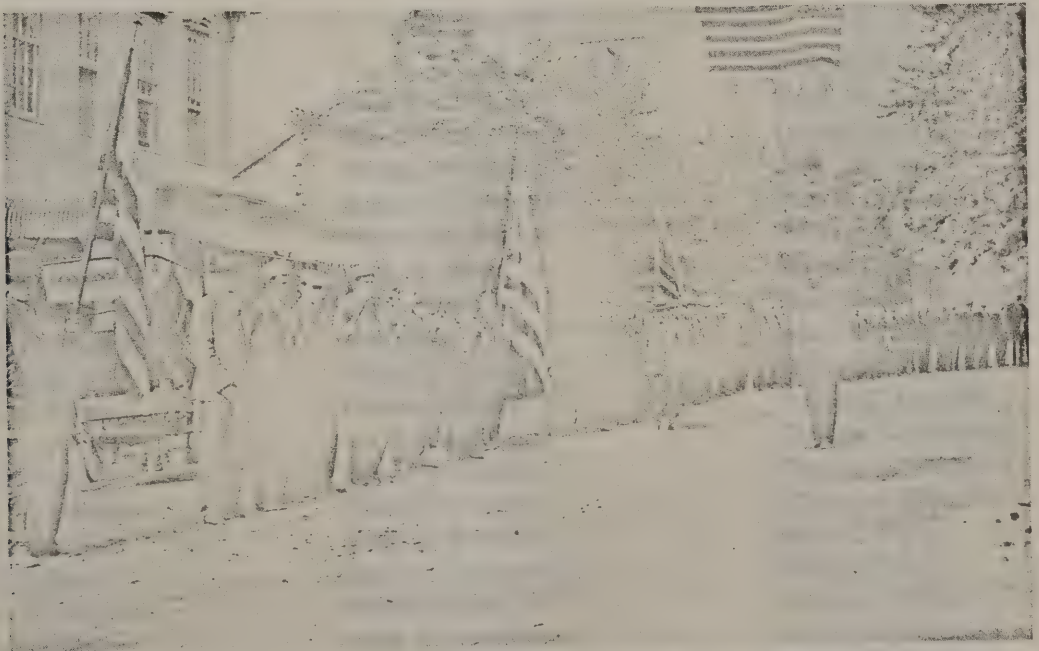
(No records available)

Civil War

John Bellon
Anthony Betz
Simon Blyler
Cyrene T. Bowman
Joseph Dietz
Rudolph Dornheim
Abraham Dreibelbis
Benjamin J. Evitts
Franklin Fidler
John B. Gise
Joseph D. Gise
John Good
Jacob H. Hartman
Isaac Hepler
John W. Hoffman
Jonas Hoffman
Hiram G. Hoke

Beneville F. Hoyer
Jonas Keiser
Jacob Kissinger
Jorias Kissinger
Joseph Kissinger
Henry Kissinger
George S. Klinger
Jonas Klinger
Peter Klinger
John J. Laudenslager
Jonas Laudenslager
George Lubold
Henry Maurer
Jeremiah McCoy
Jonas Miller
Harrison Reigle

Harry Reigle
Joseph Reigle
Obed J. Reigle
Balthaser Ritzman
Jacob Ritzman
John A. Saltzer
Martin P. Schoffner
Jacob Shiro
Isaac Sitlinger
Samuel Straub
Edward Umholtz
Emanuel Umholtz
Josiah Umholtz
Jonas Walborn
Henry Williard
John Williard
Elias Zerfing



Memorial Day Festivities 1909. Cyrene T. Bowman, Civil War veteran, in command. To the left are the Sons of Veterans, who were now doing the honors.



Memorial Day parade 1913. K. G. E. Lodge in foreground.
The girls are Ann Hepler and Elda Blyler.

Spanish-American War

Elmer Kissinger

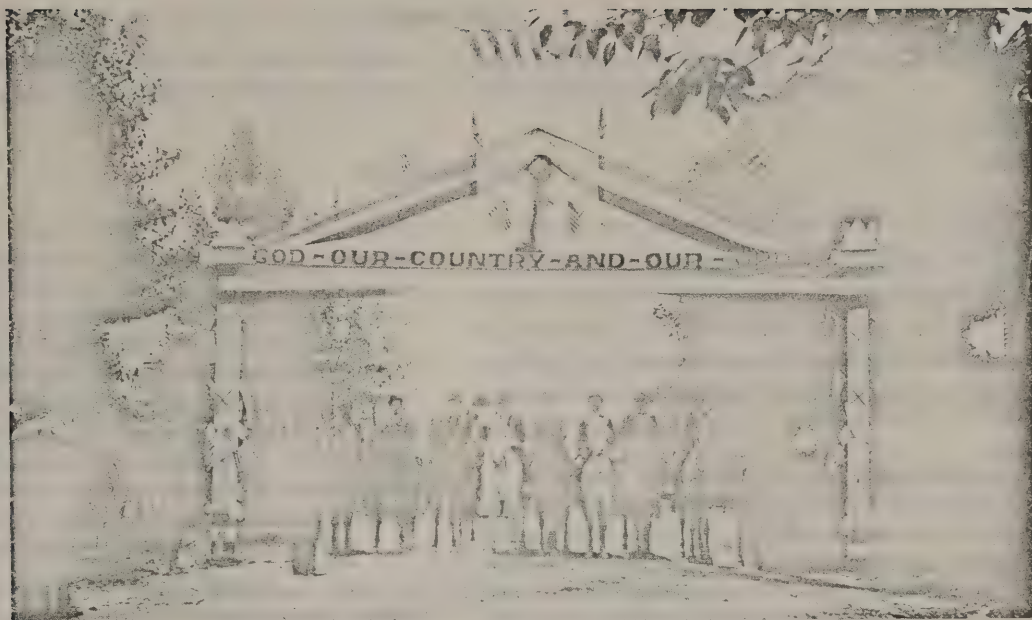
Daniel Saltzer

World War I

Roscoe E. Blyler
Clarence E. Boyer
Elmer E. Clark
Raymond J. Coleman
Foster Coleman
Carlos F. Daniels
Charles E. Daniels
Joel M. Daniels
Norman A. Daniels
Earl Dietrich
Benjamin Evitts
Henry W. Ferree
Harry Folk
Morris M. Hartman
Earle F. Hoffman
Marlin Hoffman
Thomas R. Hoffman
Fred M. Kissinger
George Kissinger

Guy R. Klinger
John B. Klinger
Charles Koppenhaver
George Koppenhaver
James Koppenhaver
Warren B. Matter
Fred W. Paul
Walter Raimer
Earl Reed
Ralph Rothermel
Chancey Salada
Ira G. Scheib
Lewis A. Scheib
Isaiah Schminky
Blair M. Schminky
Daniel M. Schmeltz
William Schmeltz
Allen L. Schoffstall

Charles E. Shade
Jacob M. Shade
George Sitlinger
John Sitlinger
Ray H. Snyder
William D. Steely
Homer C. Stine
Mark Stine
Artie W. Umholtz
H. Claude Umholtz
Homer L. Umholtz
Thomas A. Umholtz
Charles N. Welker
Harry A. Welker
John A. Welker
Perry Williard
Ralph H. Witmer
Albert M. Zerfing
Harry C. Zerfing



Parade scene Memorial Day 1920. This was P. O. S. of A. Arch.

World War II

(Taken from Honor Roll Board, with other names added)

Charles D. Bellis
 Lloyd M. Bellis, II
 Byron Bingaman
 John Bingaman
 Owen Bingaman
 Charles Blyler
 LaRue Blyler
 Neale Blyler
 Truman Bowers
 Leon Buffington
 Russell Buffington
 Warren Buffington
 Robert Coleman
 Harry Davis
 Herbert Deibert
 Howard Deibert
 John Deibert
 Robert Evitts
 John Fenstermacher
 Thomas Hartman
 Warren Hassinger
 Pershing Henninger
 Ernest Hepler
 Warren D. Hepler
 Melvin Herb
 Russell Herb
 Forrest Hess

Walter Hess
 Earle P. Hoffman
 Elmer Hoffman
 Joseph Hoffman
 Roland Hoffman
 Leon Hoke
 Harold Hoover
 John Hoover
 Leon Hoover
 Blair Kissinger
 Irvin Klinger
 Allen Knohr
 Earl Knohr
 Ralph Knohr
 Gilbert Koppenhaver
 Vincent Koppenhaver
 Ralph Kratzer
 Fred Laudenslager
 Clair Leitzel
 Guy Leitzel
 John Leitzel
 Wayne Leitzel
 Joseph Lubeck
 Bryan Lubold
 Guy Miller
 James Miller
 John Peiffer

Grant Phillips
 Herman Phillips
 Warren Phillips
 Zern Phillips
 Ethan Reed
 Paul Reed
 William Reed
 Lee Riegel
 Paul Riegel
 Dean Ritzman
 Robert Rothermel
 Cyril Shade
 Blair Sitlinger
 Herold Sitlinger
 Jacob Sitlinger
 Robert Sitlinger
 Adam Smeltz
 Raymond Snyder
 Elvin Straub
 Leon Straub
 Mark Stroup
 Melvin Stroup
 Paul Troutman
 Kenneth Umholtz
 Leroy Wiest
 Alvin Williard
 Elwood Witmer

Korean War

No records for this war were available. We do want to note, however, that two Gratz

boys, William H. B. Reed and Blair Schoffstall made the supreme sacrifice.

Battalion Day

Our older people recall hearing their grandparents and others talk of Battalion Day. This was a day set aside for the members of the militia to do their required drilling. Since Gratz was the headquarters for the members of the militia from a large area, great numbers of people flocked to Gratz to see this drill and witness what they called the evolution of the battalions. In addition to that it was a place where one would likely meet people whom one saw but infrequently. Also here boy met girl and girl met boy.

Unfortunately, while Battalion Day attracted large numbers of good people, it was also equally attractive to the rowdies, who attended for no good purpose. Goaded on by too much alcoholic drink, these men would frequently become involved in fist fights and other forms of disorder. On one occasion in Gratz a man was fatally stabbed during one of these brawls.

About five years ago the staff of "The Pennsylvania Dutchman" at Lancaster exhumed some old newspapers giving accounts of Battalion Day in other towns; and according to these accounts rowdyism seems to have been prevalent in all the towns observing Battalion Day.

It seems that the Gratz organization reached its heyday shortly before the Civil War. That the Gratz organization was of a superior type is attested to by the fact that Andrew G. Curtin, when he was inaugurated governor of the Commonwealth on January 16, 1861, selected the Gratztown Cavalry as the military escort in the parade for himself and retiring Governor Packer. Captain Laudenslager was in command of the cavalry escort.

—Lloyd M. Bellis

School Exhibition of Gratztown School No. 1

at

Town Hall, Gratz

on

Saturday Evening, March 21, 1874

PROGRAMME

Overture	Gratz Silver Cornet Band
Music by the School	Evening Greeting
Salutatory	George E. Riegel
Die fry Shool am Blubb B'rk	Isaac Keboch
Gigantic Sum	J. F. Ossman, O. T. Tobias
The Two Lispers	Elizabeth E. Saltzer, Emma C. Romberger
Little George's Troubles	Allen Schminky
Good Spelling	Josias Blyler, Milton Schoffstall, Harvey Ossman
How "Not" to Get An Answer	Julian Good, Malinda Daniel
I Am My Own Grand-daddy	Monroe D. Lehr, Harry McNulty
MUSIC—"Jennie, the Flow'r of Killdare"	Amanda B. Harper
Duties of American Citizens	Henry G. Dornheim
Is It Anybody's Business	Elizabeth E. Saltzer
Little Rain Drops	Mary L. Sebolt
A Bird Song	Catherine C. Saltzer

The Magic Lamp	Mary Hall, Catharine Clark
Oh! I Am So Jolly	Gurney M. Schminky
Leaving School	Emma J. Wiest, A. C. M. Laudenslager, A. B. Harper
Smart Family	Oscar T. Tobias, John F. Ossman
Handy Andy	H. K. Snyder, Jacob Schaffner
MUSIC	Uniontown String Band
Not So Bad As It Seems	{ Malinda Daniel, Edith E. Musser, Barbara E. Daniel, Catharine A. Daniel, Sarah M. Snyder
The Lawyer and Irishman	H. G. Dornheim, M. T. Lehr
Correct	M. Schoffstall, J. F. Lehr, D. Laudenslager
Fast Running	G. M. Schminky, H. McNulty
Bevy Eyes	{ C. C. Saltzer, M. S. Sebold, Susan D. Dornheim, Catharine Clark, Mary Hall, Mary Good, Selester Herb, Sarah M. Snyder
How the Money Goes	Emma C. Romberger
Die Nei sort Gentleut	J. Frank Ossman
Printer and Peddler	M. D. Lehr, J. F. Ossman
MUSIC	Mocking Bird
A Parlor Exhibition, (Petite Drama, 4 scenes)	{ Emma J. Wiest, A. B. Harper, E. E. Saltzer, Mary A. Kauderman, A. C. M. Laudenslager, Mary A. Umholtz, Sallie C. McNulty, Charles Hoffman, Daniel Schoffstall, Josias Blyler
MUSIC	Uniontown String Band
The Country Pedagogue	{ H. G. Dornheim, S. C. Snyder, H. C. Fidler, M. H. Good, W. D. Gise, G. M. Schminky
Connubial Confab	M. A. Kauderman, F. H. Willier
Ben Kimball's Bar-Room	J. F. Ossman, Oscar T. Tobias
The Contradiction	F. H. Willier, A. C. M. Laudenslager, J. Good
An Intelligent Witness	J. Schaffner, I. Keboch, H. K. Snyder
The Elements	{ Mary Schoffstall, Aggie Herb, Ida Herb, Amanda Hummel, Susan Dornheim, Catharine C. Saltzer, Mary Sebolt
Fruits of Courtship	George W. Good, H. G. Dornheim
Pulling A Tooth	D. Schoffstall, F. H. Willier, J. F. Ossman
MUSIC	Paddle Your Own Canoe
Little Black Bottle (mit die spirits)	{ Ada S. Daniel, Malinda Daniel, H. K. Snyder, Henry Daniel
Witty Exaggeration	J. F. Ossman, O. T. Tobias
Going a Shopping	J. K. Snyder, J. Schaffner
Fishing for the Old Chap	Bridal Party Nos. 1 and 2
New Tax Bill	Daniel Schoffstall
Characters	{ Barbara E. Daniel, Catharine A. Daniel, Sarah M. Snyder, Malinda Daniel E. E. Musser, Lucy Saltzer
MUSIC	Uniontown String Band
Negro Sermons	J. Schaffner, H. K. Snyder
Doctor and Sick Man	M. D. Lehr, J. F. Ossman
The Young Patriot	{ Gurney M. Schminky, William H. Kissinger, G. W. Sebolt, Cyrus M. Tobias, Isaiah Romberger, Charles R. Clark
The Photographer	H. K. Snyder, I. Keboch, J. Schaffner
A Laugh	John Franklin Ossman
Landlord and Tenant	H. C. McNulty, J. F. Ossman

Bachelor's Dream E. Saltzer
 Valedictory H. G. Dornheim
 MUSIC Band

Doors open at 6½ o'clock

Admission - - - 15 cents

AARON H. DANIEL, Teacher

Fenn, Pr., Lykens, Pa.

Story Of Song "O! Susie Owl"

This one song, O! Susie Owl, was used at all the Spelling Bees, and Societies, picnics or social gatherings, where the young people came to these places. The custom was to have ring games and many fellows made a date with the girls to see them home during these play periods. Usually if the girl liked the fellow and she was in the ring, she came and he received the kiss again and again, and so the date, and you walked the girl home, maybe a mile or two from the school house, and as a rule to the garden gate or the porch if the weather was warm, and you could sit there and have a chat and then receive your good nite kiss. And you had the two miles or more of a walk home to your bed all alone. You trained yourself to travel in the dark over the hills and dale, across lanes the nearest way home, and it was a pleasure, you enjoyed it all.

The same year the Sesqui was held, the Shepley's School west of Gratz, had a re-

union of the pupils that went to school there. It was started in 1954, from a picture that was taken in 1904, and twenty-one of the pupils were still living and 16 were present. In the group, the story was related about the ring games. The leader started the song but only knew the first verse, but could not give the words for the next verse, when a lady in the audience raised her hand, and recited the remainder of the second verse, and so we have the full song and music which was sung by all the old timers.

This should bring to memory to many folks still living that were in their teens during the first and second decades of the 20th Century. By resurrecting this song you can sing and play it for your grand, and great-grandchildren, and tell them about the good times you had in your youth.

—C. H. Willier

O! SUSIE OWL

Lyric *Spelling Bee, Ring Song* *Music*
Clayton H. Willier *Cartie (Henninger) Klinger* *John Rothermel*
First two decades of the 20th Cen.

O! Su sie Owl I wish 'twas Nite, That I might fly to my hearts de-light, The
 very best plan you ev-er did see, Is courtin' a!! nite and sleep next day.
 Ye, who would my true love be, Come and stand be-side of me; Give her a kiss and
 Let her go, And ne-ver ne-ver wait till the Roos-ters crow.

Usht Pennsylvanish Deitch

The common language of Gratz

Yah, Ich binn Pennsylvanish Deitsch,
Sell macht mich gar nicht base,
Ich gleich die goota schnitz und knepp,
Latwarrich und schmier kaes.

Ich denk Ich kendt noch laeva
Uff saurer-kROUT und speck,
Noodles und light dumplings
Sell dreibt my druvvel weck.

Die dickka, grossa broed-warscht
Ach, gae mier dun weck
Mit all die fancy sacha,—
Sie sin net mae wie dreck.

Ach Yah!! Wie daet Ich gleicha
Ae moehl tsurick tsu gae,
Und in die schmoke-haus schleicha:—
Will wette sell waer schae.

Ich wunner hav Ich's haemwae:—
Was schteckt mier so im haltz?
Und raega uff mei backa—
Es schmackt so schure wie salse.

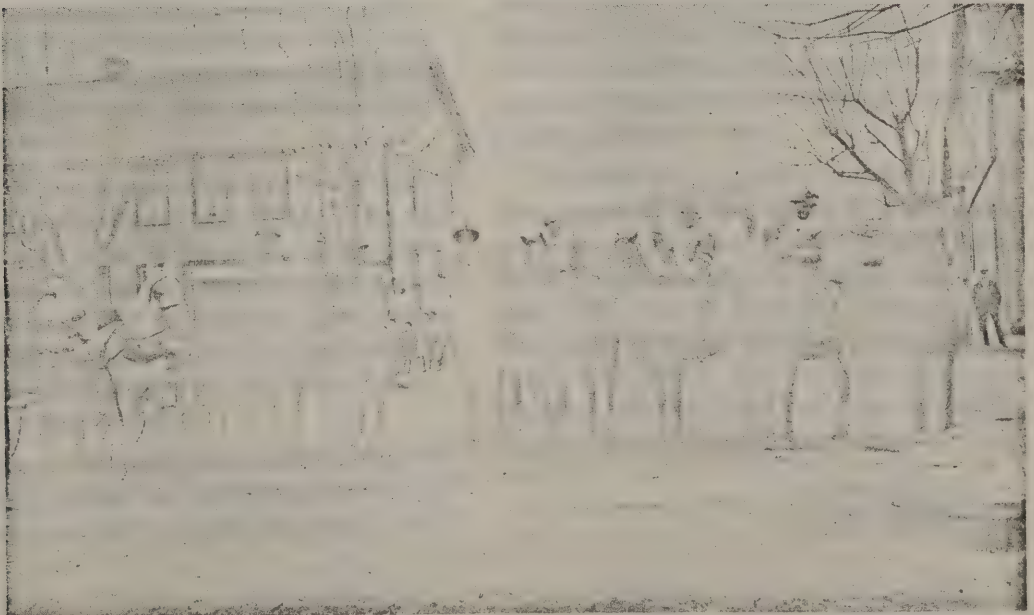
Bin usht ein alder aesel;
Auver helfa kan ich's net
Fun alta tsieta denka
Und drahma nachts im bet.

“Zim”

The New Year Celebration From Gratz

Gratz was the starting point for this sort of a Wild West, Indian style celebration. The men would come on horseback, some in saddles, others on blankets, others rode bare back. Occasionally two fellows would come on the buckboard. All were dressed mummers parade style, some like Indians, cowboys, negroes, clowns, and others.

They would visit the restaurants and the taverns in town. They would come upon the gallop as if to raid the town and made their round of performance in the street; and with the noise of their “35” shooters, and the shouting and cheering, you surely thought it was a real Indian raid. The younger ones would hide and peep out of the



New Year celebrators—Man in driver's seat is Clarence Daniel. You name the rest.

upstairs window. At the end of this rally, they would get off the horses and tie them in order to give them a rest for they were frisky at this time of the year. Then if the proprietor was willing to give them a treat they would give him his New Year wish. It was given in Pennsylvania German.

After the treat they would proceed to the next town up the valley and stop at each hamlet with their street maneuvers and the wish and treat. At Hegins they would cross the Mahantango Mountain and turn west to Hepler, Rough and Ready, Klingerstown, through the gap to Erdman, and back to Gratz. You can imagine how tired they were, because most of them were not accustomed to riding such a long distance. Some had to be taken on the buck board and led their horses. They were sore from riding for days, but it was a great day and the soreness was soon forgotten.

The last of these trips was made in 1904. The organization and gathering point was at the hotel at Gratz. Israel Daniel was in the hotel. He returned three of the horses, Bill, Dock and Maude to the boys in town. The horses were fresh and wild. They would also stop at restaurants, not only at the taverns. The dinner was always ready and prepared by Allen Kiefer, the baker at that time at Valley View. As this was a yearly affair, the dinner was always ready for the New Year paraders.

The members of this group were: Charles Brosius, Norman Daniel, Clarence Daniel, Harry Umholtz, Cleveland Kissinger, Billy Leitzel, Claud S. Buffington, Milton Schoffstall, Austin Coleman. Frank Kissinger was there to wish them a happy journey. James Kissinger was the one who gave the New Year's wish.

—C. H. Willier

Nei Yohr Awschiesse

A custom that was discontinued about fifty years ago was that of groups of men going from farm to farm on New Year's Eve to wish people a Happy New Year. Each man carried a musket or shotgun and, upon coming to a farm, roused the people from their slumbers and asked permission to do their little act.

One of the group had memorized a Pennsylvania Dutch New Year's Wish. This he recited, and, after firing some volleys from their guns, he and his comrades were asked into the homes for refreshment. One could not eat all night, of course, and preferred if the refreshments were of the liquid type—and not water or coffee.

Some of this hard cider or wine was of such high voltage that less robust ones were laid low, and had to spend the rest of the

night on some farmer's lounge or perhaps on the wood chest behind the stove until coordination had been restored to his ambulatory system. As a result the group of shooters dwindled during the night, and toward morning those still possessed of their powers of locomotion quit in disgust, called it a night, and went home.

The next item is a composite New Year's Wish provided by Dr. Albert F. Buffington, professor of German at the Pennsylvania State University, and by Charles Keim of Leck Kill. Part of it is said to have been the work of Solly Hulsbuck (Harvey M. Miller 1871-1939), and the other part by Mr. Keim's father, who had years of experience on these nocturnal excursions.

—Lloyd M. Bellis

—C. H. Willier

Der Neiyohrswunsch

Ich wünsch eich en glicklich un haerrlich Nei Yohr
 Vum Haus bis naus ans Scheiendor,
 Mit Schtaell voll Geil un Millichkieh,
 Un Kaelwer, Sei un annen Vieh;
 Die Welschkarnkripp g'schtofft bis sie bosst,
 Un zwansich Kinner in der Koscht,
 Mit yaehrich eens meh uff em Hof,
 Un blendi Woll un knottelschof.

Ich wünsch eich all en Bauerei,
 Mit lots vun "spot cash" newebeij;
 Sis gut zu sage zu die leit
 Ich wünsch eich All en gute zeit
 Im Nei Yohr wo heit ersteht,
 Un hoff's werd Niemand verlehd.
 Dass es vergest zu danke Gott,
 For des was Er uns gewe hot,
 For S'sundheit, Weisheit un verstand,
 Fer all die Fruchte vun dem Land
 Fer Rege, Sunneschein un Hitz
 Un net getroffe mit dem Blitz.

Ich wünsch en Amt mit guter pay
 Fer Leit zu faul zu schaffe meh.
 Also der siwweyacehrich Kretz
 Fer all die loafers wünsch ich jetz;
 Un alte bachelors, schei un bleed,
 Wünsch proposals vun de Maed,
 Dass yeder Mann, so wie's iss beschet,
 Deheem bleibt in seim eegne Nescht.

Ich wünsch eich liewe Leit viel Glick,
 So viel gesegnet mit G'sundheit
 Un ums behutet gege Streit,
 Ich hoff ihr lebt en hunnert yohr.
 Mer danke ah dem Gott recht schee
 Un wunsche's mocht immer so geh.
 Mer danke ah de reiche Leit,
 Es hot sehr viel zu dere Zeit

Die ihre Hande als'mol uf mache
 Un gewe arme Leit viel Sache
 Zu esse, drinke, un ah Kleede
 Un Holz un Kohle fer kalt we'dder.

Ich wünsch de Buwe unde Maid
 Viel Gluck un ah all recht viel Freed
 Ich wünsch eich Krefte wie en Ochs,
 Un sound wie 'n alte Eecheklotz;
 Un wann ihr uffschteht maryets frieh,
 En kleener jigger Kefferbrieh.
 Ich hoff dass all die Leit sin g'sund,
 Un flink un schprei wie'n Haasehund.

Of course es gebt als Dokter bills;
 Mer waerd ebmols bloo um die "gills."
 Awwer Krankheit treibt mer glei eweck
 Mit Zwiwwletee un Deiwelsdreck.
 So wünsch ich yeders lots vun Schpank,
 Mit blendi Deiwelsdreck im Schank;
 Sell halt em g'sund in alle Wetter,
 Un tough wie hemlock Sohleledder.

Ich wünsch eich alles blendi, yes:
 Sell macht's Nei Yohr en gross success.
 Ich wünsch eich all greenbacks beim Roll;
 Ich wünsch de Blottkepp blendi Woll.
 Die Schepppnaes, wünsch ich, waerre graad,
 Ich hoff der Knecht krigt unser Maad
 Ich wünsch de Buwe blendi Schlaag,
 Un blendi Fit zeel for die Maid.

Ich will eich alle winsche Glick,
 Doch weess kens was 's Nei Yohr schickt.
 Awwer viel depend uff yeder Mann,
 Was er zum Neiyohr bringe Kann.
 But Glick depend uff gute muscle
 Un harti Aerwet, Schwitz un "hustle";
 Sell zammes' schafft un recht gelebt,
 Macht's Nei Yohr haerrlich all de Weg.

Baseball In Gratz

Gratz baseball in competition with teams from other towns goes back to about 1900. Up until that time the game had been popular as a pastime between local picked teams.

Some of the men playing on the earliest teams included the following: Charles (Pat) Wise, Calvin Miller, John E. Miller, Homer Blyler, Jim Beisel, Ike Hinkle, Gurney Williard, George Kitzmiller, Fred Coleman, Charles Evitts, Willie Clark, Jim McNoldy and Art Blyler, with Allen Ritzman, Charles Clark, George Umholtz, Charles Ferree, John Hoffman and Milton Schoffstall coming a little later.

Mrs. Sarah Kratzer made the uniforms for the first team. There were no such paraphernalia as shin guards or chest protector for the catcher. They had only one bat and used the same ball over and over in games. When a ball was ripped Willie Clark stitched it with cobbler's thread. When a ball became too badly mutilated, one of the players walked across the mountain to Lykens and bought a new "dollar and a quarter ball," then the price of the best A. J. Reach or A. G. Spalding ball. They always managed to have two balls, a fairly good one for games and a beaten-up one for practice. At each game the hat was passed and the team was



Gratz Baseball Team about 1913. Front row (left to right)—Russell Hoffman (bat boy), Thomas Umholtz, Joe Ritzman, Clayton Hartman. Rear row —Harry Miller, Ross Blyler, George Umholtz, George Koppenhaver (manager), Allen Schoffstall, Earl Hoffman, Jay Brosius.

rewarded with a collection averaging perhaps sixty cents!

These earliest players gradually felt the ravages of time and younger ones took their places. Also some of these original players had moved to other parts of the country. The players shown in the first picture superseded this first team, with George Umholtz coming out of retirement to contribute experience and stability to the outfit.

New players were added to the roster as time went on. Among these were Henry Ferree, Mose Kessler, John Daniels, Herald Smith, Guy Troxell, Warren (Mush) Buffington, Johnny Williard, Clarence Miller and Johnny Harris.

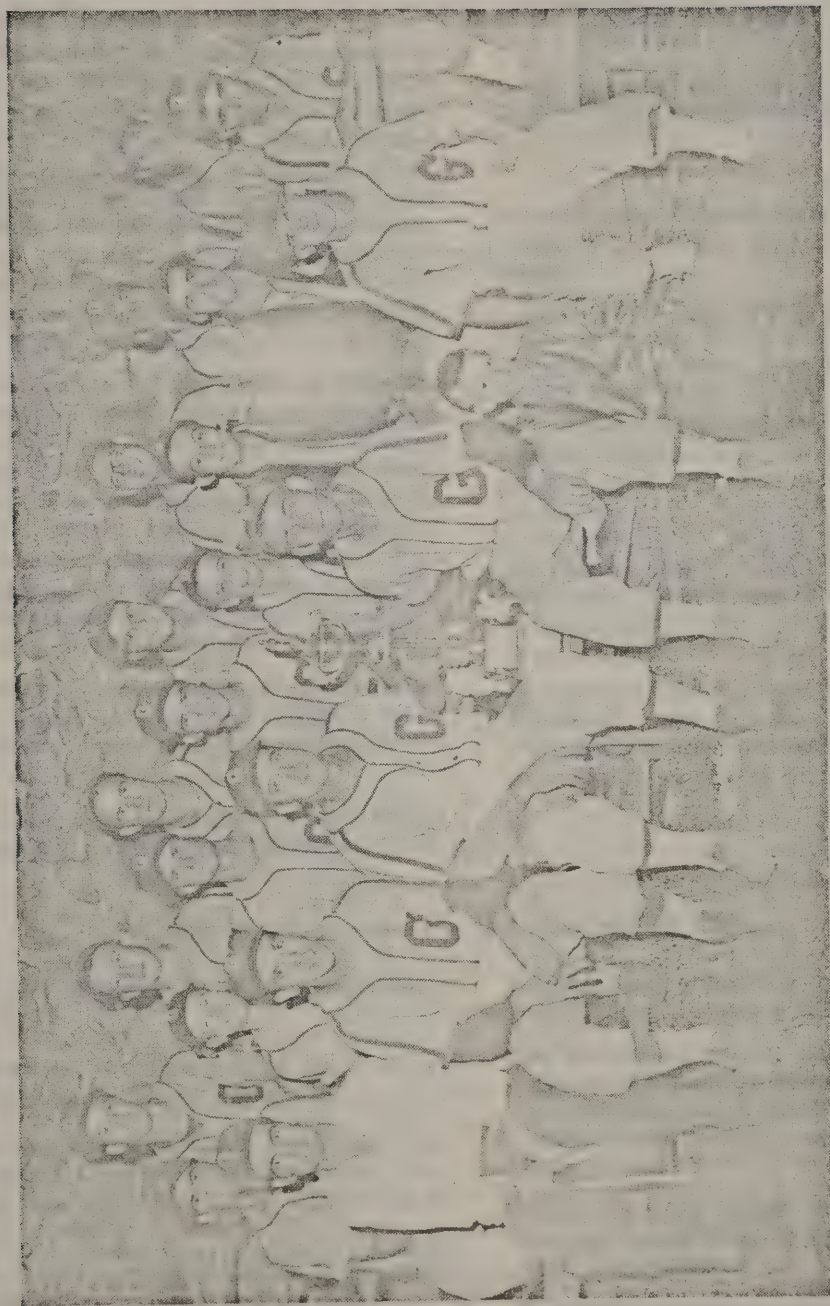
There was no league in the valley until the Twin-County League was organized in 1921. This originally was a six-team league composed of Tower City, Williamstown, Lykens, Hegins, Millersburg and Halifax. In 1922 Elizabethville and Valley View entered, making an eight-team league. In 1923 Halifax demitted and Gratz filled the vacancy, and has been part of the league since. The

membership of the league has changed over the years, but the league as such has been playing ball every year since its inception.

Players from neighboring towns are eligible under certain conditions to play with the Twin-County teams. In the 1930 personnel of the Gratz team we note some out-of-town names. Typical box scores included the following: Smith 3b, Miller cf, Hitchcock c, Shuttlesworth p, Hoffman lf, Evitts 1b, Buffington 2b, Daniels p, Scheib ss, Williard ss, Williams 2b, G. Troxell rf, Leitzel p-rf.

Later in the 1930's the out-of-town players are missing, and we find the names of Joe Schminky, George (Jiggs) Reed, Alvin (Bud) Williard, Charles Laudenslager, Roy Wiest, Mark Reed, Guy Miller, Leo Troxell, Don Williard, Robert (Gummy) Rothermel, Sam Riegel, H. Kessler and L. Kessler.

During the World War II period, the team was made up mostly of men who had military exemption on account of having dependents and of those who were too young for military service. The 1945 box scores



Courtesy — Valley Citizen

GRATZ BASEBALL TEAM 1954 TWIN-VALLEY LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Front row (left to right)—Jacob Sitlinger (scorekeeper), Ronald Strayer, George Reed and John Williard (co-managers), Tim Williard (bat boy), Jack Resd. Second row—Jim Daniels, Bobby Paul, Harry Hepler, Glenn Hepler, Derl Paul, Robert Hopple, Wilmer Long, John Bingham. Rear row—Charles Schoffstall, Roy Straub, Cyril Shade, Larry Byerly, Ronald Scheib, Jack Hepler, Donald Hopple.

look something like this: G. Hepler cf, T. Troutman 2b, Johns ss, Lark 3b, Laudenslager 1b, Buffington c, W. Daniels rf, J. Daniels lf, Collier rf-c, Romberger p, Harris p, Clark 3b, Bechtel c, Hassinger lf, T. Daniels 3b, Muth rf.

The following year (1946) the rosters of players was about the same with the addition of some men who returned after doing their duty for Uncle Sam. These included J. Bingaman, E. Witmer, E. Reed, G. Miller, P. Scheib, S. Riegel and R. Rothermel. By 1947 other men had returned from the service and were playing again. These were: G. Reed, G. Hepler, O. Bingaman, R. Knohr, N. Blyler and C. Shade. J. Hepler, D. Hopple and R. Blyler were rookies.

The highlight of the 1950's to date was the season of 1954. In that year Gratz was state champion in the National Baseball Congress, and as such was to represent Pennsylvania in the national play-offs at Wichita, Kansas, that fall. Lack of sufficient finances precluded our team's participation. This outstanding team is shown in the second picture accompanying this article. The names of the players are shown below the picture.

Gratz has always been a good baseball town. The local team always finishes in the first division, and has won the pennant oftener than any other team.

A number of Gratz players have played professional ball. These included Homer



Grandstand at Ball Park

Blyler, Alvin Williard, Harry Hepler, Cyril Shade, Paul Scheib, Carl Scheib and Jack Hepler.

Carl Scheib reported to the Philadelphia Athletics in the spring of 1942 at the ripe old age of 16, fresh from the Gratz High School team which he had just pitched to the championship of the Upper Dauphin League. He was with the A's until the end of 1954, with the exception of a two-year period in the U. S. Army in Germany. While in the service he pitched his division into two championships in the U. S. Army forces in Europe. At the close of the 1954 season Carl was sold to Portland of the Pacific Coast League.

George Umholtz, John Hoffman, Milton Schoffstall, Allen Schoffstall, Harry Miller, Warren Hassinger and Ralph Knohr have been players on college teams.

—Lloyd M. Bellis

—C. H. Willier

Did You Know, or Do You Remember That—

The Short Mountain Washery burned down in 1919?

The first coal was brought up Shaft #1 at Lykens on October 4, 1915?

The first postoffice for Gratz was at the forge south of Loyaltown, and that before that men took turns walking to Millersburg to get the mail?

Adam Wise was the first justice of the peace in the valley, assuming office in 1789?

John Hopple was the second justice of the peace (1799)?

A murder was committed on Short Mountain near Fennel's mines in 1857?

The last woolen mill in the valley was conducted by Samuel Wolfe about three miles west of Gratz on the south side of the Wiconisco Creek where the creek turns southwest?

Before the mines opened the Wiconisco was a clear stream from which trout and other fish were taken?

The longest anthracite coal strikes were from September 17 to October 29, 1900, and from May 27 to October 27, 1902?

Harry Dietz was the first local automobile owner, and that Anna Rabuck Willier read the riot act to him after his car made her "Petty" break the tie strap and head for home with the buggy?

Leonard Reedy made complete guns in the 1830's for \$13 to \$15, depending on how "fancy" a man wanted it?

The thermometer registered 27 degrees below zero one day in January, 1912?

During World War I more Americans died of the "flu" than died on the battlefields?

In 1915 Wilmer Atkinson, publisher of the Farm Journal, was an overnight guest of John and Carrie Schminky, and that he visited the Cold Spring and could hardly get enough of the good cold water?

In 1830, 450 bricks sold for \$3.37?

French and Penrose were in the store business in 1828?

Another early storekeeper was Conrad Frey?

When the borough was incorporated in 1852, people on farms near the village wanted to be included to secure the advantage of graded schools for their children?

A thriving settlement existed at the Forge south of Loyaltown, founded in 1828 by James Buchanan (not the president), and that here lived George Buffington, John Nicholas Hoffman, Philip Umholtz, all sons of some of our founding fathers, and that earlier there had been an Indian village here which gave the place the name of Indian Town Run?

The Revolutionary War depended largely upon the militia for soldiers, that every able-bodied male between the ages of 18 and 53 had to enroll with the exception of ministers and men in high public office, and that most of the men listed as Revolutionary soldiers in another article got into the army via the militia?

In 1905, fifty years ago, there were three schoolrooms in use in the borough with a total enrollment of ninety-nine pupils, and that the township had eight schools and 187 pupils?

The ten-year period 1923-1933 is spoken of as the "Golden Age of Popular Song," and

that the best ten songs of the period were "Tea for Two," "I'll See You In My Dreams," "The Man I Love," "When Day Is Done," "Ol' Man River," "Russian Lullaby," "My Blue Heaven," "Lover, Come Back to Me," "Star Dust," and "Good-night, Sweetheart"?

The first court in Dauphin County was held at Harris Ferry in 1785 in a log court house which was used until 1840?

The concrete sidewalk from town to the church and schoolhouses was made in 1912?

A hundred years ago there was both a wagon manufacturing shop and a furniture and cabinet shop in Gratz?

Our present Center Street was originally Chestnut Street, and that the present Chestnut Street used to be Locust Street?

Our present Market Street was originally Main Street, and that sad to say there are still people in town who haven't heard of the change made about eighty years ago?

The yearly rent of a house in Gratz in 1877 was forty dollars?

All the Umholtzes in the United States can trace their ancestry to Henry Umholtz, one of our early settlers?

The first proprietor of a store in Gratz was Mr. Fry, maybe the first in the Valley. Fry and Shindel were in the store business in 1836-1839. Solomon Shindel was married to Fry's daughter, who later took over the mercantile business in Gratz. He was a son of John Peter Shindel, a Lutheran preacher from Lebanon. John Peter, Jr., a brother of Solomon devoted a number of years to teaching school in and around Gratz. His father made the rounds as far as 30 miles on foot to meet his congregations in three valleys. Mr. Shindel removed to Northumberland and Junior was engaged in studying theology, a number of times filled the pulpit for his father, when he could not make the trip. They then rode on horse back to Lykens, Armstrong, and Mahantango Valley. In many places he had to preach during the week, not being able to supply them on the Lord's Day.

The first places of worship for the Lutherans and Reformed were at Buffington's, now Hill Church, and at Hoffman's, 1772-1771. Later some went to Klinger's Church at Erdman.

Simon Gratz built a log structure for that purpose next to his lot about 1819, and called it the Meeting House. This was opposite the Log School House in 1822. After 10 years of preaching in the Meeting House the Lutheran and Reformed congregations were organized, and one

church service was held in the William S. Boyer home opposite the present Post Office.

The map of 1862 shows that Daniel Good converted the Meeting House into a blacksmith shop. In 1875 this lot was owned by J. Frank Boyer, and they tore down the log structure and built the present two and one-half story structure, now owned by his daughter Miriam.

—C. H. Willier

Physicians of Gratz

Any article about the medical profession in this community must concern itself largely with four men: Dr. Isaiah S. Schminky, Dr. Gurney M. Schminky, Dr. William E. Lebo and Dr. Arthur A. Horn. For exactly one hundred years these four have dominated the profession locally.

Dr. Isaiah S. Schminky was a native of Lancaster County. After graduation from the Pennsylvania Medical College in 1854, he practiced one year with his physician father, and in 1855 located in Gratz, and served the people of this community for forty-five years.

In addition to his skill in his profession, Dr. Schminky was a public-spirited citizen who served the town in the offices of school director, councilman and chief burgess, as well as being the Upper Dauphin County Representative in the State Legislature at Harrisburg in 1871-1872.

He reared five children, Gurney M., Allan B., H. Newton, John F. M. and Bertha M.

Dr. Gurney M. Schminky graduated from Jefferson Medical College in 1884 and practiced in Gratz until 1894. He then located in Williamstown. He returned to Gratz in 1900 and resumed his practice for approximately ten years, before pursuing his profession in other places. He spent about twenty years of his professional career in this community.

Dr. Schminky and his wife, the former Ida Garber had two sons, Albert of Sunbury and Walter of Camp Hill.

Dr. W. E. Lebo was born in Valley View in 1874, the son of Dr. William Lebo and Sarah (Boyer) Lebo. He graduated from the Medico-Chirurgical College in Philadelphia, and began practice in Gratz in 1898, after having practiced in Fisherville for one year. He attended to the ill of the neighborhood until his death in 1941, with the exception of an interval of several years spent in his profession at Hatfield, Pa. For a number of years he served as a member of the borough school board.

Dr. Lebo was married to Pruella Huntsinger of Valley View. They reared five children: Mrs. Gertrude Walton, Millersburg, the late Rev. Ellerslie A., Mrs. Elsie Kratzer, Elizabethtown, Mrs. Bertha Blyler, Millersburg, and Arland A., M.D., Neffsville, Pa.

Dr. Arthur A. Horn, the town's present physician, is rounding out a quarter of a century's practice in this Sesqui-centennial year, having started his practice here in 1930. He is a native of the valley, claiming Hegin's as his birthplace. He is a graduate of the Hahnemann Medical College, class of 1929.

Dr. Horn is married to Helen E. Felsburg of Minersville. They have one child, Cynthia Diane. Both Dr. Horn and his wife are active in the civic affairs of the community. He is completing eleven years of service on the School Board. He organized and for many years conducted the Well-Baby Clinic in town. Socially, he is the best chess player in his block.

Other physicians who practiced here around the turn of the century included Dr. Charles B. McClure, who later practiced in Berrysburg, Dr. Arthur H. Woods, and a Doctor Walborn and a Doctor Ritter. The

last three named were here for brief periods only.

Another doctor who made a good record for himself was Dr. C. E. Suender, who practiced here about 75-80 years ago.

—Lloyd M. Bellis

Gratz Borough Council 1955

Members: Marlin Umholtz, Harry Erdman, Jay A. Brosius, Irvin C. Adams, Melvin Stroup.

Officers: President, Melvin Stroup; Secretary, Gilbert Koppenhaver (non-member); Treasurer, George A. Koppenhaver (non-member).

Gratz Borough School Board 1955

Members: Russell Hoffman, Dr. Arthur A. Horn, Gilbert Koppenhaver, Naldy Leitzel, Harold H. Umholtz.

Officers: President, Gilbert Koppenhaver; Vice President, Russell Hoffman; Secretary, George F. Klinger (non-member); Treasurer, Harold H. Umholtz.

Other Borough Officials 1955

Chief Burgess, Roy Blyler; Tax Collector, W. Arthur Hess; Assessor, Fred Shade; Jus-

tice of the Peace, George F. Klinger; Chief of Police, Carl Sitlinger.

Some Former Justices of the Peace and Constables

Upper Paxton: Adam Wise, February 1, 1799; John Hopple, March 19, 1799; Michael Enterline, December 13, 1814; John Hoffman, February 9, 1816; John Mitchell, October 16, 1818; Leonard Reedy, December 28, 1818; Henry Schreiner, March 29, 1821; Jacob Seal, February 18, 1822; Leonard Reedy, 1822-34; William Wingard, 1834-36; Daniel Good, 1849.

Gratz Borough: Daniel Good, May 7, 1852; Daniel Leffler, May 7, 1852; John Laudén, April 11, 1854; Daniel Good, May 7, 1855; George Hoffman, April 14, 1857; J. Laudenslager, April 12, 1859; Jose Ker, April 28, 1862; Daniel Good, June 25, 1864; Jonas Keiser, April 22, 1867; Charles Ger-

hard, April 15, 1867; Daniel Good, November 15, 1869; George Hoffman, April 15, 1870; William Boyer, April 15, 1873; George Hoffman, March 11, 1876; J. C. Good, March 25, 1878; George Hoffman, April 9, 1881; H. H. Good, 1884; A. S. Ritzman, 1890-1894; J. J. Buffington, 1896-1900, 1900-1920; A. S. Ritzman, 1905-1910, 1910 to his death a Notary Public; 1910-1914, Tobias Klinger; 1914-1932, Daniel Coleman; 1932 to the present time, George Klinger.

The constables of Gratz were: Philip Keiser, 1799-1830; Daniel Hoffman, 1830-1833; Daniel Riegler, 1829-1836; Jacob Exler, 1824; Henry I. Schoffstall, 1850; George Hoffman, 1853; Henry Keiser, Peter Kemble, Jacob Witmer, Ralph Witmer.

The Al Shade Show

Short Mountain Boys and Girls Artists of Radio and Stage

WLBR, Lebanon, Pa.

I started my hillbilly band in the year 1952. The following merchants of Gratz sponsored my first half-hour show for 26 weeks, and started me on the road to success: Rothermel's Tavern, Lettich's Radiator Shop, Smeltz's Grocery Store, Reed's Furniture Store, Allen Shade's Feeds, Irvin Adams' Ford Garage.

I started on radio station WLBR in Lebanon and at the present time am featured for a full one hour and fifteen minute show, starting at 3:15 every Saturday afternoon. We also have appeared on television stations such as WLBR-TV, channel 8 in Lancaster, and now on Channel 55 in Harrisburg.

The kind of music we play is strictly corn. That is, we play by ear and a lot of the songs have been handed down from generation to generation. Songs such as, *The Little Brown Jug*, *Coming Round the Mountain* and *Golden Slippers* will be remembered by all the local folks.

Through the winter we play for square dances held by neighboring schools and in the Fire Company hall in Gratz on Friday nights, and in the American Legion Hall in Millersburg on Saturday nights. During the summer months we play outdoor appearances at parks, carnivals, and festivals. At the present time we are well booked at home and nearby communities.

At the present time my band is composed of six people as follows:

1. The Gesford Sisters Jean & Joanne (swell harmony)—Hershey, Pa.
2. Mr. Les Harner (Hot steel guitar)—Valley View, Pa.

3. Bud Schoffstall (Red hot mandolin) — Gratz, Pa.
4. Mr. Jr. Shade (Electric bass, vocals) — Gratz, Pa.
5. Al Shade (Lesser—M. C. Straight Guitar, vocals)—Gratz, Pa.

To date I have composed the following songs:

1. Pennsylvania Waltz
2. Last Night I Dreamed About You
3. You'll Be Mine For Evermore
4. I've Got Spring Fever (Hillbilly Style)
5. Life Without Love.

The most popular is the Pennsylvania Waltz.

I have been directing this same band for the past two years and they are a swell group to work for and with. Always cheerful and willing to work and to cooperate.

In closing I'd like to say in behalf of my band, Thanks a million to the sponsors of Gratz who helped give me a start in radio, also thanks to our many fans who stick with the band, many being my friends and neighbors in our town of Gratz. I believe the kind of music my band plays symbolizes and helps to carry on the traditions of my friends and neighbors in Gratz, Pennsylvania. I hope that I can in some small way help to make the Sesqui-centennial of Gratz a success. "So Long, Everybody and Be a Good Neighbor."

—Al Shade

PART VII

FAMILY HISTORIES

(Family histories are printed at the expense of the families)

The Adams Family

A prominent family of Gratz, whose members are among our leading citizens, is the Adams family.

Members of this family now living in Gratz are: Irvin C. Adams, George C. Adams, Eugene F. Adams, who died in 1954, but who is survived by a daughter, Esther, married to John Williard; Mamie Adams, who is married to William Rebeck.

The Adam, or Adams, family can be traced back to one Anthony (or Andoni, as he signed himself) Adam, who emigrated to America from Holland, landing in Philadelphia in the year 1741. He sailed from Rotterdam on the ship "Molly," commanded by Captain John Cranch, and after he, and his fellow passengers, had taken the required oath of allegiance to the English sovereign, they were qualified to land years and his trade was stated to be a pot-October 26, 1741. Anthony's age was entered on the passenger lists as twenty-five ter.

According to the "Biographical Annals of Northumberland County," there is a difference of opinion as to Anthony's native country, and one account says he was born in Germany, while another says that he was a French Huguenot. On February 7, 1748, he received from the proprietaries of the Province of Pennsylvania a warrant for a tract of land consisting of 136 acres, 146 perches in Albany township—then a part of Philadelphia county. The site was surveyed for him by the surveyor general of the Province, June 6, 1752, and it is possible that he settled here immediately after his arrival in this country. Anthony lived here and participated in the trying

times of the French and Indian wars. This tract of land is currently in the possession of Nathan Weisner, of Round Top, Albany township, Berks county. On February 7, 1748, he also received a warrant for a tract of 135 acres, 47 perches "above Maxatawny", and in 1761 he sold 140 acres of his land in Albany township to John Reinhard. He was the administrator and chief creditor of the estate of Albrecht Stimmel, of Albany township, in 1766, and his administration account was approved in December, 1768. The date of death of Anthony Adam is not known and the name of his wife is also unknown. However, it is known that he had sons who included: Abraham, Anthony and Bernhard, who moved to Schuylkill county, Pa.; and Peter.

Bernhard Adam, son of Anthony, was a pioneer in Northumberland county, settling in Washington township on the farm now owned by Clements I. Adams. This homestead has been in the Adams family for six generations. Bernhard followed farming during his lifetime. He and his wife were of the Reformed faith and they are buried at the Himmel's Church. They had eight children: John, who had sons Gabriel and Abraham; Nicholas, who lived at Spring Glen, in Schuylkill county; Catharine; Absalom, who had sons Nicholas and Abraham; Charles, who married and had no children; two whose names are not known; and Bernhard.

Bernhard Adam, son of Bernhard, was born May 14, 1793. He married Salome Ferster (or Furster) who was born June 3, 1796, and died November 19, 1846. They were members of the Reformed congregat-

son of the Himmel's Church where they are buried, and Bernhard served that church many years as deacon, elder, and trustee. He farmed the Adams homestead and built a barn upon it which was destroyed by lightning in the nineties. He had an excellent reputation as a marksman and a hunter, and a bear and a deer were among his prized trophies. Bernhard died August 25, 1864. They had the following offspring: Polly married Jonathan Heim and they went West; Isaac never married; a daughter who married Daniel Klock and went to Illinois; Sarah married John Held and moved to Illinois; Lena married James Troutman; David, born April 1, 1837, died in Washington township July 19, 1882, and he and his wife are buried at Himmel's Church; Hannah married Phillip Graser and moved West; and Bernhard.

Bernhard Adam, son of Bernhard and Salome, was the third of the name to own the homestead farm. He was born November 5, 1827, in Washington (then Jackson) township, and died October 17, 1905. He was a prosperous farmer and he acquired three farms, one of 150 acres on which he lived, another of 120 acres, and a third of 148 acres. He also was an active member of Himmel's Church — as was his wife. His wife was Matilda (Zerfing) daughter of Jacob Zerfing and was born March 25, 1832, and died September 3, 1899. They were the parents of sixteen children, namely: Sallie, married Erisman Adam; Andrew married to Polly Brosius and later, Mary Trautman; James Washington, born in 1853, died in 1891, unmarried; Clinton died young; Mary married John Tyson and they lived at Shamokin; Lafayette married Catharine Starr; Joseph died young; Turrell died young; Monroe married Emma Fegley; Cassie married Henry Crissinger; Samuel lived in Dauphin county; Jemima died young; Richard lived at Gratz, Pa.; Miranda married Francis Schlegel; Jacob died out West; and Adam Cornelius.

Adam Cornelius Adams, son of Bernhard and Matilda, was born August 10, 1863, on the old homestead. He received his education in the township schools and assisted his father in farming, horse dealing, butch-

ering, and huckstering in his young manhood. In the spring of 1888 he began farming for himself on a farm between Rebuck and Greenbrier. Here he lived until his death on Dec. 17, 1910. Adam purchased this farm from Andrew Reitz; however he still retained possession of the old homestead which his son, Clements, now lived on and cultivated. For a long time, Adam served as supervisor of the township roads. He and his family were also active members of Himmel's Church. On July 1, 1887, Mr. Adams married Mary Crissinger, daughter of William and Susanna (Rebuck) Crissinger, of Washington township. She died on November 13, 1946. They had four children, namely: Clemens I., George C., Eugene F., and Mamie S.

George C. Adams, son of Adam Cornelius and Mary, was born on the old homestead, and in 1912 he came to Gratz where he took a position as Hostler for W. O. Rogers Hotel. In 1913, he became a dealer and trader of horses of all kinds, including fast "buggy horses", riding and farm horses. He then started a livery stable and carried on a profitable business renting horses and buggies to anyone who wished to ride about the valley for business or pleasure. About 1915 George, together with Harry Dietz, entered the automobile business in Gratz. He was very successful in this business and at one time he held the dealerships of the Buick, Ford, Chevrolet and Oldsmobile companies. In 1922, he built the large garage and service station which stands near the center of Gratz. Mr. Adams operated this garage until 1946, when he sold it to his nephew, Irvin C. Adams. Upon the reorganization of the Gratz National Bank, George became its President, a position which he holds today. He is active in the used car business, and his two main hobbies are racing-horses and trap shooting, at both of which he excels. In 1953 he won the Coleman's championship at Hegins; two weeks later, he won the Middle Atlantic States Live Bird Championship; last fall he finished third in a field of 2000 shooters at Vandalia, Ohio, for the National Championship; and in 1951, he won the International Championship. Mr. Adams is also a member of the Gratz

Fair Association. In 1929, he married Anna Buffington, a tenth generation member of the Buffington family (see Buffington history). George and Anna live in a new brick structure, which George had built, next to the old Simon Gratz homestead. They have no children.

Eugene F. Adams, son of Adam Cornelius and Mary, was born on the homestead on April 16, 1892. He received his education in the township schools. He married Bertie Paul who was born at Leck Kill, November 26, 1891. The couple then moved to Pitman, and here Eugene began to "drive the Stage", as it was then called, between Pitman and Dornsife twice daily. On these trips made by horses hitched to a stage-wagon, Eugene would carry the U.S. mail, freight of all kinds, and any passengers desiring to make the trip. In 1916, he came to Gratz and from here he drove the stage to Elizabethtown three times daily. Eugene is well remembered by the older citizenry for the valuable services he performed with his stage in any and all kinds of weather. In the early days, his equipment consisted of a large stage wagon and four horses during the summer months, but wintertime he would change to a two-horse bobsled to make his trips. Upon the introduction of the automobile era, he began to drive an Autobus which was designed for him by his brother George. This route ran from Gratz to Pillow, through Berrysburg to Elizabethtown, and then back to Gratz. Eugene's wife died in 1946, and he died in 1954. The couple are survived by one daughter, Esther, who is married to John Williard, and they reside in a home built by them on the south side of Gratz.

Mamie S. Adams, daughter of Adam Cornelius and Mary, is married to William Rebuck who operates a successful grocery store and gas station in Gratz. Their children—Derl, married, living in town; Leah, a secretary in the Gratz bank, living at home.

Clemens I. Adams, son of Adam Cornelius and Mary, was born on the Adams homestead, in Washington township, in 1887. Like his father before him, he farmed the old homestead and engaged in dealing in horses, butchering, and huckster-

ing until 1946, when he retired from the farm and built a new house along the Rebuck highway where he lives at the present time. Recently, he sold the Adams homestead to Nevin Rothermel. On January 3, 1906, he married Annie Adams of Shamokin; she was born in 1889. The couple are active members of the Lutheran and Reformed Church of Rebuck. They have had nine children: Mary S., married to Oscar Brown; Annabelle C., married to Roy Feese of Shamokin; Russell C., married to Ruth Wert and they live in Sunbury; Howard R., lives at Hickory Corners, and is married to Emma Kehler; Josephine E., married Guy Erdman (deceased); Eugene S., a Doctor of Dentistry living at Millersburg, and married to Lena Crissinger; Marvin, married to Miriam Shadel, and living at Rebuck; Barney O., married to Lela Strohecker—he is now serving as a Staff Sergeant in the U. S. Army at Ardmore, Oklahoma; and Irvin C.

Irvin C. Adams, son of Clemens and Annie, was born on the Adams homestead on October 5, 1914. He received his education in the township schools, and his youth was spent in helping his father on the farm. During his early manhood, he worked for the Dan Kessler Construction Company for five years, and he also worked for the Cummins Diesel Company at Philadelphia. On June 5, 1946, he purchased the Adams Garage and the Ford dealership, from George C., and established himself as a businessman of Gratz. Mrs. Adams was the former Pauline Snyder, daughter of Henry Snyder and Clara (Barrett). She was born in Shamokin on March 15, 1914, and she and Irvin were united in marriage on April 11, 1936. They have had two children: a daughter named Lillian Viola, who died in infancy; and a son, Paul I., who was born on January 5, 1943 at Pitman. Paul is now attending the Upper Dauphin Joint High School at Elizabethtown. Irvin C. Adams is the proprietor of a first-class garage, located on the main street of Gratz, near the center of town, which caters to any servicing in the automotive industry. He is also the accredited Ford dealer for this area, and, as such, has established a growing reputation as a reputable dealer in new and used

cars. Both Mr. and Mrs. Adams are active in the Gratz Civic Club, and other community activities. They are members of the Evangelical Congregational Church of Gratz, of which Mr. Adams is, at present, a trustee. He is also a member of the Gratz Fair Association, and the Borough Council. Mr. Adams owns several race horses which

he raised and trained, and some of which are, even now, racing on tracks throughout the land. He is also an ardent fisherman and hunter, and the trophies of his prized deer kills, hanging on the walls of his office at the garage, bear mute testimony to his prowess with a gun. The Adams family has resided in Gratz for the past ten years.

The Blyler Family

Arthur Blyler's Ancestors

Arthur Blyler, proprietor of the Plymouth Hat Store, Harrisburg, was born June 10, 1886, in Gratz. He is the son of Daniel and Adeline (Daniel) Blyler. His great-grandfather Michael and Maria (Burket) Blyler had migrated to the western part of the state about 80 miles north of Pittsburgh. His family consisted of these children: Daniel, deceased in 1896; Solomon Elias, Philip, Betsy, Kate, Edward, Simon and Julia.

Simon, Arthur's grandfather, was born in 1822, and received his education in Mifflin Township, Clarion County, to which place his parents had moved while he was yet quite young. After working for a few years on the farm he learned the trade of masonry and continued at this occupation for sixteen years. He enlisted at Harrisburg in Company A, 15th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, in 1862. He was discharged in 1863 in Washington, for disability. For 16 years, he was engaged at various occupations, and then entered the service of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, working as a stonemason. In 1875, he came to Gratz. He was married August 28, 1844, to Miss Caroline Klinger, born in 1825, a native of Lykens Valley. His wife died September 7, 1895. Simon died in Gratz in 1897. Their children were: William, Shamokin, Pennsylvania; Samuel, hotel proprietor, Lebanon; Preston, Bear Valley; Daniel, hotel proprietor, Gratz; Frank, tinsmith, Lebanon; Emma (Mrs. Aaron Umholtz), Joseph, at Johnstown; Alice, deceased; and Charles M., a restaurant proprietor, resided in Gratz all his life. He was married to Elizabeth Hess (Lizzie).

Charles' children are: Harry Blyler, received his education in the Gratz schools. After his marriage he moved to Lykens where he resides. He took up the plumbing business. Jennie, married to Dr. P. E. Downing, deceased, lived in Trenton, New Jersey. She removed to Gratz, March, 1955, the year of the Sesqui, and intends to spend her later days in the old home town. She lived away from Gratz 46 years. They have one daughter Jeanette. Roscoe, married to Grace Ritzman, his boyhood sweetheart from town. After their marriage, they both worked in the Gratz Shirt Factory. They then purchased the factory and Roscoe was proprietor of it for about twenty years, till his death. His wife is also deceased. They have three children, all living in town, Neale, Patricia (Patsy), and Robert. Elda (Mrs. Rehner), has lived in Tremont for the past 37 years. She was forelady in the factory. Eva was married to Clarence Miller, deceased. They bought the Gratz bakery after Harry Hess died, and were in the baker business from 1920 to 1936, when they dissolved the bakery and Clarence worked at Middletown. He was a director of the Gratz Bank. They have two children living in town, James and Mary, married to Walter Daniel. Heister is married to Bertha Lebo, his boyhood sweetheart, from town. He was in the restaurant business in Gratz, then they moved to Millersburg. They have three children, Clarita, Barbara, Ellerslie. Roy, the baby, was married to Hilda Snyder, daughter of Charles Snyder, teacher. Roy worked in the bakery shop at Gratz, and for 31 years has been running a bakery truck, from Gratz to Berrysburg, Pillow, Herndon, and farmers in the two valleys.



Daniel C. Blyler—"Dad"

It is not known that he ever missed any trips.

The father, Daniel C., proprietor of Union Hotel at Gratz, was born in Schuylkill County, October 17, 1851. In childhood he moved with his parents to Gratz where he received his education in the Gratz schools, which was sufficient to enable him to secure a county teachers certificate. After attending State Teachers School at Middletown, he taught school several years and served in official capacities. Daniel in his early days, carried mail across Short Mountain to Lykens. In the summer time he made it barefooted. He was married July 14, 1877 to Ada (Adeline) Susan Daniel, daughter of George and Elizabeth (Hoffman) Daniel. One of her other sisters, Sarah married Emanuel Geist, and moved to Leek Kill. There they had the General Store and Post Office. Elizabeth married Andrew Hepler, who was in the store business with his brother Isaac, and was proprietor of the upper hotel in Gratz.

Of the remainder of the Daniel family, Andrew lived on the homestead and hauled the bricks for the Gratz school with a four-mule team, which his father had contracted

to build for \$500. He left home and moved to Kansas, where his children reside. Uriah H. attended the public schools of Lykens Township, Berrysburg Academy, and later the Millersville State Normal School. He was engaged in teaching school nearly all his life except for three years, when he was engaged in mercantile pursuits. Later he purchased a farm in Lykens Township, where he resided until his death. He was married to Ida L. Sitlinger on August 25, 1884. She was born in Lykens Township in 1863, daughter of Isaac and Maria (Shade) Sitlinger. Their children Clarence E., Norman A., Elsie M., who are unmarried, live on the homestead northwest of Gratz. Uriah H. was a member of the Reformed Church at Gratz in which he held the office of deacon. He also was superintendent of the Sunday School for many years. George F. was married to Lizzie Umholtz, lived on the homestead, and elsewhere, and retired in Gratz. Their son Charles, who lives at Millersburg, married Mollie Hess, and their son Dunn lives in Gratz, and works in the Gratz shirt factory. Mary E. Daniel died young.



Susan Adeline Blyler "Mother"

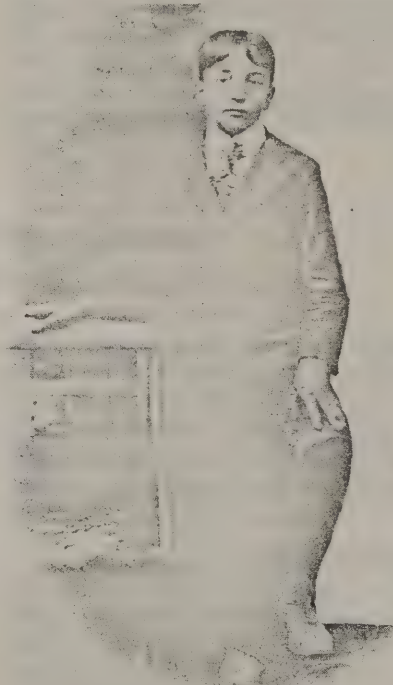
Daniel C. Blyler, after teaching, had a road huckster route. He drove with the horses and wagon as far as Shenandoah each week and sold the produce collected in the valley. He had many experiences with the "Molly Maguire Gang," but nothing serious. He later purchased the Union Hotel at the southwest corner of Center and Market streets in Gratz. He built a new hotel which became a total loss, for it burned to the ground in 1886. He built a new one and some years later sold it.

In 1893, the family moved to Harrisburg and purchased the Old Matter House, later called Central Hotel. In 1896 they returned to Gratz to go into the original hotel. Mrs. Blyler known as "Addie" was an excellent cook. Many salesmen over a period of years made it a point to stay at their hotel over night. Abe Gross, who boarded there when he lived in Gratz, before he was married, said she was the best cook anywhere from here to Philadelphia. She learned her trade in the valley, handed down to her by her Pennsylvania Dutch ancestors. It still is the best cooking in the nation.



Edna and Anna Blyler

The hotel was then sold about 1900 to Israel Daniel, and the Blyler family moved to Reading. Their children are Anna, Edna, Homer, Arthur, Margaret, Albert and Verna. The children all received most of their education in the Gratz schools. Homer finished school at Gratz. In his last few years at school, he learned the art of pitching baseball from Jim Beisel from Tamaqua, who



Arthur G. Blyler

visited Gratz relatives in the summer time. His father Adam Beisel, earlier taught the High School at Gratz. Homer received his early training on the Gratz Baseball Team. A number of his team mates are still living. He played ball in Reading City League, and later in Brooklyn, New York, where he hurt his arm, which finished his ball career. He is living at present in Reading, and is engaged in the men's hat business. Margaret is a graduate nurse in the Reading Hospital, entered the service in the First World War at Camp Meade. She later married and lived in Buffalo, New York. Arthur Garfield finished school at Gratz. He was married to Maud Mabel Miller in 1910, and located in Harrisburg in 1912, where he is engaged in



Homer Blyler with "Doc"

The Benjamin Buffington Family

The First In The Gratz Area

Richard Buffington, the progenitor of the Buffingtons of Pennsylvania, settled here before the name was given to the province. William Penn obtained a charter for the Province of Pennsylvania on the fourth of March 1680, but the records of the court at Upland, now Chester, show that Richard Buffington was a taxable in 1676, or one hundred years before the Declaration of Independence. He was born in 1653.

The Pennsylvania Gazette (edited by Benjamin Franklin) for June 28 to July 5, 1739 contains the following: "Philadelphia. On the 30th of May past the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Richard Buffington I to the number of one hundred and fifteen met together at his house in Chester County, as also his nine sons and daughters-in-law and twelve great-grandchildren-in-law. The old man is from Great Marlow upon the Thames in Buckinghamshire in Old England aged about 85 and is still hearty, active, and of perfect memory. His oldest son, Richard II, now in his sixtieth year was the first born of English descent in this province."

It was from this place our progenitor emigrated to the wilderness of the present Pennsylvania in 1675. The first Richard Buffington is recorded "Rich Buffington" on the list of "taxables" Upland, Pennsylvania.

the men's hat business. His place of business is The Plymouth Hat Store, at 4th and Market streets. He was in the business for the past 43 years. So if you need a hat, go and see the old Pennsylvania Dutchman from Gratz.

In memory of our father and mother, by Arthur, and sisters Anna and Margaret, Art says, "It is with a great deal of pleasure that I had the privilege of contributing to the success of the Sesquicentennial of Gratz 1805-1955. This is in memory of my parents who spent the greater part of their lives at this beautiful spot in Beautiful Lykens Valley."

1677, bought land. Richard Buffington and Grubb 1679 bought section of land west of Chester Creek above Penn, and named it "Hopewell Kent," 1696. Richard Buffington conveyed his land to his sons, Thomas and William, the second and third sons of Richard, and reserved life interest.

On September 13, 1681, the first court in the new province was held at Upland, at which Richard Buffington appeared as a witness in one case, as a plaintiff in another, and as a defendant in a third. He was a member of the Grand Jury June 27, 1683 and a witness at the same court. In 1687-1688 he was appointed "constable" for Chichester Township. In that day there were no public schools and a number of neighbors joined together in the employment of a teacher. Mr. Buffington was married three times. His first wife was Anna Francis. After her death he married Phebe Grubb, the widow of John Grubb, who first appears on the records as an active member in 1729. His second wife probably died soon afterwards. His third wife was Alice Palmer in 1731. By his first and last wives he had 13 children. The 12th child, Joseph, purchased from Isaac Norris the homestead of Richard his father of over 200 acres for \$100.00. Here he lived at the time of the Battle of Brandywine, and the nearby ford on

the eastern branch of the Brandywine was long known as Buffington's.

Richard Buffington's death occurred in January 1747 when he was in his 94th year. His descendants now number many thousands scattered nearly all over the United States.

Thomas, the grandfather of the Lykens Valley Benjamin, was the second son of Richard the first, who with William, his brother, inherited his father's lands. The others of their family received the benefits of his personal properties. Thomas was married to Ruth Cape, the daughter of Oliver Cape. Thomas was born in 1685 and died in 1739. He had a second wife named Ann William. His brother was unmarried.

William, the son of Thomas, the father of Benjamin, was born in Chester County. The name of his wife is not recorded. They lived in Upland. Two of his sons are recorded. They were Benjamin and John.

Benjamin Buffington, one of the first settlers in the valley, was born about 1730. When he was of age he removed to Berks County where he lived for some time. He migrated to the Beautiful Lykens Valley, then a wilderness, and built himself a log house and cleared the land to make a permanent settlement. This occurred about the year 1750. According to early writers he built his home here and made it ready before he brought his family here. There is no doubt that this was the place where John Peter Hoffman heard the rooster crow and decided it was time for him to stop and make a settlement in the valley when he migrated here at the foot of the Short Mountain. Benjamin must have sensed the danger of the Indians in the territory of the Blue Mountains, for several settlers were killed in that region in 1755. He was married to Mary Frisell in 1755. They had twelve children, one son is recorded born in Berks County and another was born in Chester County. This indicates that he brought his family into the valley before 1760. There is no record that this family was molested or had to move from the valley on account of the Indian raids. After the Indian wars they had cleared a large

tract of land. In his old age he had requested to be buried in the Grave Yard at the foot of Short Mountain where John Peter Hoffman and twenty-six others are buried. He died in 1814. Two of his sons were buried the same year, David and Thomas; two daughters were buried in 1815, Ann and Sarah Ann. The other children were: George (m. Barbara Hoffman), Rachael, Eli, Mary, Levi (m. Susannah Hoffman), John, Mercy and Elizabeth (m. George Lupold, Farmer).

John, the youngest son, was born in 1775 and married Catharine Hoffman, the daughter of John Peter Hoffman, a farmer who resided on the farm adjoining Jacob Hartman, in 1796. He was County Commissioner from 1822 to 1824. He died in 1834.

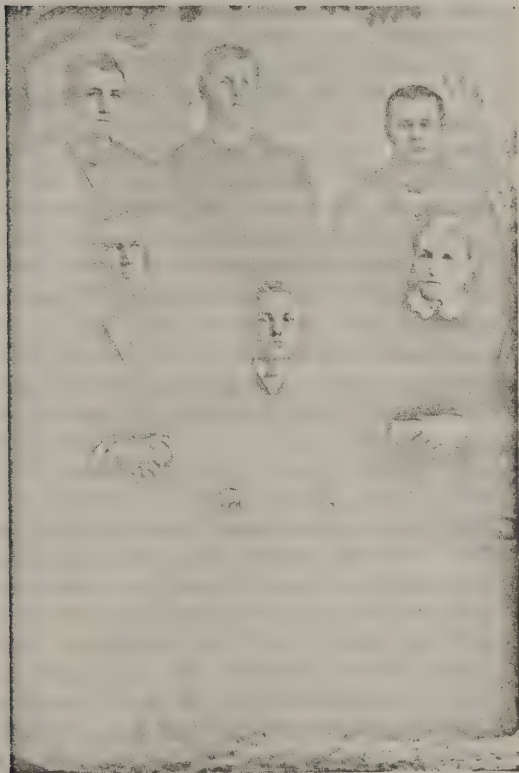
Eli, the oldest son of Benjamin, was born in Berks County about 1757. He came to Lykens Valley when his father removed the family to his new home in the wilderness about 1760. Eli found himself a home north of Gratz at a spring near the Deep Creek. His grandson Jeremiah lived on the homestead many years. He cleared and farmed a large tract of land where Albert Leshner now lives. Eli was married to Elizabeth Kissinger, and later purchased Abraham Kissinger's "Quadruped" (see map). They had four children: Abraham, John E., Susanna, and one not named. He was an old line Democrat, a member of the German Reformed Church. He retired in Gratz and died about 1835. He was Township Subscriber in 1820-22-28-29-32.

There is no known record of Abraham. However, he is on the record as a patentee of land east of Gratz, in Lykens Township. Whether Benjamin's Abraham, or Eli's Abraham had the patent we do not know.

John E., son of Eli, was born in 1799 and died in 1867. He received his education in the public schools and then assisted his father on his farm until he was 21 years old. He married Susan Artz and located in Mifflin Township on a farm until 1839, when he removed to Lykens Township on the homestead where he remained the rest of his life. He was Township Subscriber in 1839, auditor in 1853-54-55, Supervisor 1851.

He was a member of the German Reformed Church at Gratz, in which he filled several offices. They had five boys and five girls. They are: Amos, Caroline (m. Peter Kissinger), Sarah, Jeremiah (m. Emma Hess), Susanna, Maria, Daniel, John O., Elias and Hannah.

Sarah was married to John (Johannes) Willier, who came into possession of "Amsterdam" when it was divided among the



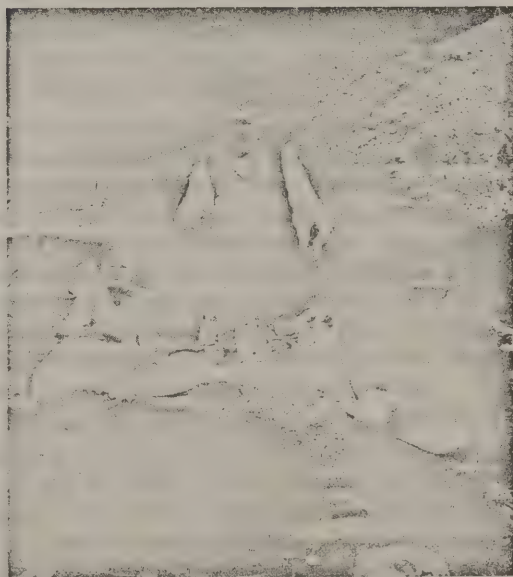
The John Willier Family—Front row (left to right): John Willier, Jacob, Sara Buffington Willier. Rear row: John Adam, Rufus Freeman, Frank

three brothers. (See footnote for ancestry of Johannes.) They greatly improved the farm and cleared the land. When his son Frank was married and able to take over the farm, John (Johannes) moved to Gratz and bought the Dr. Lehr farm at the west end of Gratz, where the granddaughter Elma and Joe Hartman now live. He was interested in civic affairs and better roads. He served as Supervisor in 1861 and held various other town offices. They belonged to the Reformed Church. He died at the age of

54. His widow Sarah outlived him many years and purchased the Buffington property in Gratz where Norman Cook now lives, West and Main. She lived with her two unmarried sisters, Susan and Maria. She died in 1909. They are both buried at Hoffman's Church. They had four sons, Frank, Rufus, John A., Jacob and one girl Sallie who died young. He had the shortest will on the Docket at Harrisburg. The brothers living should settle the estate as Sarah wishes. Rufus received the farm "Amsterdam", John A. the farm at Gratz, and Jacob purchased a farm north of Gratz where Blair Wiest now lives. Blair's son Marlin is the eleventh generation of the Buffington clan. His daughter is the 12th generation.

Frank Willier farmed "Amsterdam" for some time and then removed to Hegins, the upper part of the Valley. He was married to Levine Shade, a descendant of the valley, and they had a large family. The remainder of the Sarah Buffington family lived near Gratz, and in town all their lives. And in many ways they helped in civic and church affairs in good old Gratztown.

Rufus was about eighteen when his father moved to Gratz, and as he was not needed on the small farm he was hired by



Aaron and Rebecca Rabuck picnicking with granddaughter, Katie Willier at the Cold Spring

Isaac Hepler as farmer and road huckster and dray man. Here he became better acquainted with his sweetheart, Anna A. Rabuck, the daughter of Aaron Rabuck, auctioneer, well digger, home foundation and excavation contractor, restaurant operator and home-made ice cream manufacturer, and served many sales, picnics and other occasions in this and Mahantango Valley. After serving a year for Hepler they were married, and Rufus and Anna moved to "Amsterdam," which farm he greatly improved, the crops increased, and the old Log Barn was too small and dilapidated, so in 1903 a new and larger barn was built at the cost of \$1200 for material, carpenter, saw mill operator. The work that Rufus and his sons put into it was not counted. They raised horses and cattle, so there was always a young horse to train and keep up the horse power. They had a huckster route to Lykens and Wiconisco, and made butter of the best in their time, at times as high as eighty-five pounds per week. A dam was built along the creek and ice was stored at winter time to keep the cream during the summer, which was always quite a task, that is forgotten in our day. Of course, to handle milk in its process of butter making, Bruno, the dog, helped to turn the separator, and churn the butter from the endless round of the treadpower — now driven by electricity. Anna was the huckster until her last few years. Anna died in 1914. Rufus married a second time. He married Savilla Reigle, a spinster, daughter of Andrew Reigle. The children by his first wife are: Katie, Charles, Rebecca, Aaron, Clayton and Lillie. Katie, Charles and Aaron are deceased. Lillie and Rebecca are married and live in Gratz.

Clayton lives near the homestead on the tract called "Solitude," purchased by Adam Willier, and his wife Sarah. A twenty-two acre plot had been cut out for their retirement. Adam died in 1860 and Sarah outlived him until 1879. Clayton attended the school at Gratz. 1898 to 1902, and 1909, and the township schools at Schoffstall's and Shepley's. George Keener was his first teacher and Anna Shoffstall the last teacher in the grade schools. In 1911 he attended Millersville State Normal School where he finished his high school course. He also

attended the Pillow Summer School under Professor Calvin Grimm for two terms, and after only two terms at Millersville was granted a county certificate to teach in 1911, and he taught school in the Little Red School House for 26 terms. He also took extension courses during teaching from Shippensburg S.N.S., Susquehanna University, and a Radio Course from Boston University. In 1918 he received a Professional Certificate, which he renewed. In 1922 he received his standard Permanent Certificate. The last year he taught was in 1943.

In 1933 Mabel E. and Clayton H. purchased the homestead, also the Joseph Willier farm and the twenty-two acre plot of Sarah Willier farm making a total of 274 acres. They recently purchased the Shepley's one-room brick, a four perch school property. They were engaged in farming for the past quarter of a century, raising and feeding beef cattle, hogs, general crops, potatoes, and canning crops. They are now tired of farming and not quite old enough to retire. Clayton H. was married to his childhood sweetheart, Lillie Dockey, a daughter of Benjamin Dockey, a neighbor farmer. She died in 1922 from effects of the "flu," leaving a son Dale Dockey Willier, a graduate of Gratz High School and married to Arlene Otto, living at her homestead. He is a Second World War veteran, and now a coal mine engine operator. Their daughters are: Barbara and Marcella.

Clayton Willier is married a second time to Mabel E. Schreffler, a daughter of Frank Schreffler, from Pillow. The Schrefflers settled in the Schwoven Creek, Northumberland County territory and now have the ninth generation of that clan. Clayton and Mabel's children are: Lillie, Mrs. Robert Umholtz; Orlando, married to Mae Mauser (children Bonnie, Linda, Jimmie, Steven, and Christa), Cordelia, and Freeman, single.

Katie Buellah, the eldest daughter of Rufus and Anna (Rabuck) Willier was born in Gratz in 1885. While young she spent many a day in Gratz with her grandparents, Aaron and Rebecca Rabuck. In their later years she attended to their home and restaurant while their health was failing. Clayton and Lillie also took turns after Katie

was married to John D. Paul, who came with his parents and settled on "Dover," farming a large tract (south of Amsterdam). They removed to Sunbury and Mr. Paul worked in the Leib Grocery Store, later in partnership with Arnold and Paul Grocery Store, Sunbury. They dissolved partnership and he became a traveling salesman for the Sunbury Grocery Company. When her mother was failing in health they moved on "Amsterdam" for a number of years, also farmed elsewhere, and again returned to the homestead and helped to farm when the "flu" epidemic came along, and he died in 1918. Katie and the children lived in Gratz for a number of years.

She was married a second time in 1922 to William H. Bechtel, by whom she had no children. They owned and operated a large farm in Powell's Valley where she died in 1956, 71 years old.

The children by her first husband are: Rufus D. Paul; he attended school at Schoffstall's from 1913 to 1915, Shepley's 1919, and Gratz High School in 1923, finished at Halifax High, taught in Public Schools, Halifax Township for five years, managed Weis Pure Food Store, then an employee at the Post Office, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, which position he holds to this day. His name is at the Stamp window. Rufus was married to Mary A. Hoover, graduate of Halifax High, who taught in that township five years and 20 years kindergarten in Paxtang Schools in Harrisburg. Their oldest daughter, Carolyn, graduate of John Harris, is a registered nurse, and married Dr. S. L. Caruso, Philadelphia, Pa. Their three children are: Patricia, Paul, Stephen; Ronald, a graduate of John Harris, after four years in the Navy he is now a Freshman at Gettysburg College; youngest daughter Mary (Peggy), also a graduate of John Harris, is a technician at Harrisburg Hospital.

John W. Paul attended Gratz schools in 1923. Then he moved with his mother to Powell's Valley where he finished school, and worked on the railroad, Purina Feed Company, Hershey Industrial Home, is now foreman in Halifax Shoe Factory. He is married to Mildred Rowe; their oldest daughter,

Jean finished Halifax High and married Titus Enders, a carpenter; Joyce, after high school married Harlan Reinfeld; son Randy at home. Ethel L. Paul, born in Lykens Township, lives with her stepfather William. She is married to Charles E. Shoop; they farm the Bechtel farm. Mr. Shoop is a Soil Conservation Officer. Their son Edward is attending Halifax High School. He is interested in 4-H Baby Beef Club and the last few years won many prizes. He had a 1st Angus, in its class at the last year's Farm Show, Harrisburg. Allen, also a 4-H'er, fattened a baby beef for several years, and also won prizes, and Ernest is also at home.

Charles Willier was born in Lykens Township on "Amsterdam" in 1888. He attended the Township Schools. The last school attended was at Shepley's in 1903. He helped on the farm and later became a conductor on the trolleys at Sunbury. He was married to Maude Stiely, a native of Lykens Township, north of Gratz. She lived in Gratz where her father Reuben was in the hotel business. They moved to Willow Grove, where for many years he was a conductor on the Rapid Transit Company from Willow Grove Park to the City of Brotherly Love and back. For many years he was a policeman during the summer in the park owned by the same company. He later took up farming, and then moved to Hatboro, and worked in a foundry during the war and post-war period. One fall he met with an accident which caused his death. Their daughter Marcella lived in Gratz with her aunt Ruth Stiely for many years, is now married and lives in Hatboro, Pennsylvania. Ruby is married and lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Mark, the only son, after his father's death, attended the Hershey Industrial School. After graduating there, he was employed in a printing office at Harrisburg, in the photo department, that pictures the pretty flowers, trees, shrubbery, fruits, etc. in seed catalogues. He is married and they have a boy and a girl.

Aaron was born in "Amsterdam," and attended the one-room school. He was a great hunter, and fisher, taking after his grandfather, the hunter, and Grandmother

Rabuck, the fisher. He loved the great out-of-doors, he was robust and strong. He wagered he could shoulder and carry the peddler's pack that used to come and visit our home regularly, and he did. He also was the first young man to accomplish it. After his marriage to Mary Herman, he was a teamster with a four-mule team to haul timber to the mines at Lykens. After the mines closed, he worked on the railroad, and later the cement highways came into use where he worked and became foreman for Route 14 around Halifax. He spent many winters at the deer-hunting camp, the last few as the Chef of the Club. They had one child, Dorothy. He was married a second time to Anna Bechtel, shoe factory worker at Halifax; they had no children.

Rebecca is married to Allen Daniels, son of Aaron Daniels, a teacher, farmer, piano salesman. After their marriage they took over the homestead north of Gratz, and greatly improved the farm; besides farming he sold Ford cars, tractors, and radios. He was one of the first to have a radio in the Valley, when his uncles did not believe such a thing as voice waves in the air; about 10 years ago they moved to Gratz and sold the farm. They operate a garage and grocery store in the upper end, sells Dodge cars, Zenith television, electric appliances. Their children are: Orville, Walter. Annie, the oldest, deceased, was married to Nevin Crabb. They had five children: Ruby, Richard, Jean, June, and Harriett.

Lillie, the youngest of the family was born in 1893. She also attended the schools at Gratz, living with the grandparents, Aaron and Rebecca Rabuck. They had great affection for the Willier children, and Clayton and Lillie took turns to live with them in their old age. Mr. Rabuck was a saw mill operator along the Deep Creek, driven by water power, which Elias Buffington had built and also had a country store-restaurant. He came to town later and went in the restaurant business there and later located at 238 East Market Street. They introduced the new delicious treat called "ice cream." People came for miles for their fill. With this treat, and refreshments they served picnics, sales, gatherings, church dedications, etc.

Mr. Rabuck was an auctioneer, well digger, side walk layer, and foundation constructor. In his leisure time he had many stories to tell on hunting and fishing and also liked to play tricks on the young ones to scare you about the Indians and the bears, he said were still around. They both died in April of 1909 and are buried on the Wild Cat Hill.

Lillie was married to John Schoffstall in 1911; they took over the Schoffstall homestead; his father Adam, and grandfather Samuel were brick makers and farmers. They built the brick school house named Schoffstall's in the township and the brick house on the farm. Lillie and her husband continued farming and dairying for forty years. He also was a road huckster to Lykens and Wiconisco, selling their farm produce and butter of the best, for they had cold spring mountain water to keep the cream, as high as 75 pounds a week. They sold the farm and removed to Gratz in their home in 1954, for their remaining years. Their children are: Hannah D., m. to John Shiffer, living in the township. They have no children. Eva S., deceased, was married to Blair Weist. They have one child, Marlin, m. to Mildred Morris and have a girl, Kathy, the 12th generation of the Buffington clan. John, Jr., m. and lives in Gratz. Edna, m. to Arthur Lubold. They have one son Paul and live at Erdman. Stanley, m. Janett Bruce, live in Gratz. Sarah Jane, m. Earl Jury, living in Gratz. Alberta E., m. Glen Leitzel and live in Millersburg. They have two children, Rodney and Glenda. Her twin brother Albert is single at home; and Charles Harvey is at present in the Service.

Jacob M. Willier, the youngest son of Sarah (Buffington) Willier was born and reared on "Amsterdam," attended the schools of Lykens Township and at Gratz. He moved with his parents to Gratz when he was fifteen years old and worked as a daily laborer on the homestead and elsewhere. When he was of age he married Catherine Miller, daughter of John Miller, near Gratz. They rented the Buffington farm north of Gratz, at the Deep Creek, formerly Eli Buffington's homestead. When they divided the Sarah and Johannas Willier estate, Jacob purchased a farm north of

Gratz, where Blair Wiest now lives. He greatly improved the farm and raised general crops, dairy cattle, hogs and poultry. They continued farming until 1926 when they retired in Gratz, the northeast corner of High and Market Streets, where his widow, Catherine, the oldest resident of town, now lives.

Their children are: (1) Hannah, Mrs. George Hartman, now retired farmers living in Gratz. Their son Clair took over the George Hartman farm, one of the nine farms that the ancestor Hartman divided among his children. Clair also purchased the Elias Buffington farm adjoining his father's. Clair married Ruth Tobin from the Upper Valley, and have one son David; a daughter Etta is married to Allen L. Shade, a native of Gratz. Allen purchased Etta's grandfather's farm west of Gratz, and is in the poultry business. He is also engaged in various activities, coal mining, trucking, feeds, fertilizers, chop grinding and mixing. They now own four farms, and purchased the Community Center for their daughter Minerva, Mrs. Roy Neagley, and daughter Roxanne. Etta also has two sons, Charles married to Mary Witmer, have a son Michael; and Clair, both working at home. Mr. and Mrs. Allen L. Shade purchased the Levi Buf-

(2) Lydia married Jay Brosius, a miner, farmer, carpenter. They took over the homestead and purchased it. Their children are: Alma, Anna, Marie and William Jacob. Lydia died in 1936, after which Jay and the family moved to town. Catherine Willier took the baby William to raise, who is now in the service in Germany, Alma, Mrs. Mark Straub, a graduate of Gratz High School, and teller of the Gratz Bank for ten years, has one son Randy; Anna Mary, Mrs. Tom Hartman, has no children. Marie, Mrs. Lester Maurer, lives in Klingerstown. They have two children, Larry and Cindy.

(3) Etta married Harry Henninger, farmer, cattle raiser, and custom farmer. They live on the Mathias Deibler farm, his great-grandfather's homestead, "Lewisburg." He served as school director for fifteen years in Lykens Township, vice-president of the Lykens Valley Bank, Elizabethville, vice-president of the A. A. A. Motor Club, at Dalmatia, Pennsylvania, and vice-president of the Gratz Fair Board for many years. Their children are: Kermit, married to Mildred Markley. He is an inspector at the Middletown Airport; Harold, married to Carolyn Ash, a Dixie school teacher. He is a graduate of the Berrysburg Vocational High School, a graduate of Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee, and received his Master's Degree, now principal of Jefferson High School, Jefferson, Georgia. They have one daughter, Stella.

(4) Emma married John Wolfe of Lykens Township, a graduate of Berrysburg Vocational High School, removed to Harrisburg. Were in the garage and parking lot business. He had to quit the business because of ill health. He died in 1954. They have one daughter, Lois, a graduate of William Penn High School, attended Hood College and a graduate of University of Pennsylvania Nursing School, Philadelphia, and is now supervising nurse at the Harrisburg Hospital.

(5) Freida married Robert Koppenhaver, a native of Lykens. They live with her mother and have no children. Freida has been a Gratz factory worker for a quarter of a century. Her husband works in Harris-



Stiely's Store and residence of Allen L. Shade
This was an old Buffington estate

ington property in town at the corner of Center and Main. Across the alley, they have a three-decker poultry house, feed house, and the Grist Mill.

burg and owns a number of properties in Wiconisco.

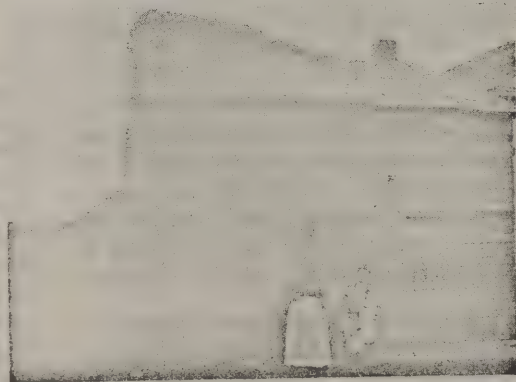
The other descendants living in Gratz are of the Levi Buffington line, son of Benjamin and Mary (Frisell) Buffington. He was born about 1761 and married Susanna Hoffman, daughter of John Nicholas Hoffman the second son of John Peter Hoffman, born in 1776. He learned the carpenter trade. He built the first log church in the valley, named Hoffman's, and the first log school house in Gratz. He and his father-in-law formed a partnership and built a large log church on the westward side of the road from Berrysburg to Elizabethtown and named it the Buffington's Church. It was so named in the deed when Lykens Township was divided from Upper Paxton Township, later called the Hill Church. The church-building business was not very prosperous so they gave it up. Many of the better log homes were designed and built by Levi. They had ten children: Benjamin, George, Solomon, Enoch, Susan, John, Elizabeth, Daniel, Sarah, and Jacob, Sr. This is Claude (Globby's) Buffington's line of ancestry that follows now.

Jacob, Sr., son of Levi, the carpenter, was born about 1800, in Lykens Township, and died in 1878. He was raised in Gratz, educated in the log school house and learned the trade of a mechanic and was one of the most expert hunters in his day. He was married to Mary Guntryman. One writer states that after his marriage he removed to Powell's Valley where they resided and are buried. They had nine children: Susan, Thomas, Isaac, Lydia, Polly, Levi, Jonas, Emanuel and Jacob, Jr.

Jacob, Jr., son of Jacob, Sr. and Mary resided in Gratz. He received his education in the Gratz schools. He entered into politics and held various offices. He was elected County Commissioner for one term. Later he went into the sarsaparilla bottling work, a new drink that came to town, and had a large trade up and down the valley and into Mahantango Valley. Then later other bottling works sprung up and put him out of business. He was married to Rebecca Hawk and their children are: Samuel, Emanuel (drowned at the age of nine in the Klingers-

town Gap), Ellen married to Samuel Wise. Polly married to Bill Guyer, Carrie married to Christian Wertz, Annie married to Edmond Umholtz, Amanda married to Daniel Ritzman and Sally married to Harry Hopple.

Samuel, the only living son of Jacob, Jr. and Rebecca took up farming and first resided on the Buffington farm where the Daniel Brothers now live till the boys grew up. He then removed to Gratz where the Gratz Bank is now located, kept house for Squire George Hoffman and farmed land around town. He was married to Sarah Umholtz. They had four sons and two daughters, George, Henry and Jacob J., who spent most of their lives in Gratz, and Charles. Carrie married George Kissinger, a carpenter and farmer. They had nine children, Myrtle, Albert, Harry, Sara, Carrie, Vera, Edna, Lester and Joseph. Her daughter Myrtle married Clarence R. Kop-



Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Buffington and their daughter, Mrs. George Kissinger, holding her daughter, Myrtle, who is now Mrs. Clarence Koppenhaver. Little girl is Annie Witmer.
Home stood on site of Gratz National Bank

penhaver, lives in Gratz. Her father lives with her. Carrie died in 1954. Myrtle and Clarence have one daughter Betty, m. Guy Leitzel of Gratz. They have three children Ruth Ann, Gloria and Brenda.

Henry was born on the farm near Gratz and received his education in Schoffstall's school and worked on his father's farm. When his parents moved to town, he went to Pillow and worked for the Wiest Brothers in the butcher business. He then came back to Gratz and worked for the new Grange

store in the Odd Fellows Hall. He became their road huckster, gathered their produce and sold it in the mining towns around Ashland and Girardville, and also hauled their freight for the store supplies. The Grange then sold out to Jacob Shiro, when he became the road huckster for Shiro for 30 years, and during spare time he worked on Shiro's farm. Shiro later sold his business to Abe Gross and Henry started his own road huckster route. He continued in this business till he retired. He purchased the Gratz property on Spruce and Main where Ed Gratz had built a brick house, and to which Daniel Good had added the rear portion. The property is now owned by George and Anna (Buffington) Adams, the eldest daughter of Henry. He was married to Clara Phillips. Their other daughter Marie is deceased. Six other children died young. Anna is a life-long resident of Gratz. She serves the office of Notary Public since 1923. They have no children.

Elias, the son of John E., was born on the homestead north of Gratz. When he was of age he took up a tract of land west of the homestead at the Deep Creek. There he built a dam and saw mill. The remains of the dam and mill were still there in 1910. The land is now owned by Mabel Daniel and the farm south of it by Daniel Brothers and Clair Hartman. Elias retired in Gratz in 1890 and lived to be an old man. He owned the corner property of N. E. Market and Center. His children were Mary, Mrs. Aaron Daniel; Polly, Mrs. Elias Schoffstall; Ellen. Mrs. John Miller, the undertaker of Gratz for over three decades; and Adeline, Mrs. Isaac Seiler.

John and Ellen (Buffington) Miller had four sons, Charles, Calvin, Harry and John Elias. Calvin and Harry were in the undertaking business. The children are all deceased. John Elias was married to Sallie Buffington.

George Buffington worked in the mines and farmed about 32 acres of land in the borough. He married Mary Laudenslager. She kept a milliner shop in town. They had five children, three died young. Their daughter Sallie married John Elias Miller. They have two children, Carrie and Guy, six grand-

children, and five great-grandchildren. Their son Harry attended the schools at Gratz and took up teaching. He taught school for three terms in Lykens Township. He attended Millersville State Normal School for several spring terms. He quit teaching and worked in the mines for better pay. He also took over the homestead, retired from the mines and took care of the farm. He was married to Maude Geist. They had one boy, James Harry.



Harry Buffington with a day's bag—His niece, Mary Matter, on the right

George, the father, and Harry, were the most expert hunters and fishers in the valley. The question remains whether father or son was the better. Their picture shows the results. There was no limit on the bag of game per day at that time. They could also tell you about the big one that got away.

Carrie, Mrs. Matter received her education in the Gratz schools. She was born in 1907, the daughter of John Elias and Sallie (Buffington) Miller. She played the pipe organ for about ten years for the Reformed Church. After her marriage she removed to Lykens. They were in the grocery store business on West Main Street. Their children are: Mary M., married to James C. Bateman. They have three children, Bonnie Lee, Sally Ann, and Jeffory James; Richard E., married to Rose Mary J. Kolvick. Their children are: Richard Earl, Kim Christopher; Linda Eilene at home. These grandchildren are in the thirteenth generation of the Buffington clan. After Mr. Matter's death, Carrie was married a second time to Chester M. Matter, also deceased. Widow Carrie and her son Richard carry on the general grocery store.

Jacob J. Buffington was born in Lykens Township in 1861. He attended the school of his native township. Since the boys were not all needed at home on the farm he left at the age of 16 and decided to become a saddler. He worked one year at Pillow as an apprentice with Zekrist. The next year at the age of 17 he started his own saddle and harness making business at Gratz in the Odd Fellows Hall, in connection with this work he started the first barber shop in town. He made many harnesses for the farmers in the community and did their repair work. In 1890 he bought the old school house in Gratz on the west side of the Odd Fellows Hall, which was built in 1822. In this same year he built a harness and saddle shop and barber shop combined, a two story structure. In 1904 he made another improvement. He dug a cellar at the building line and moved the one and a half story school house on it, joined it to the shop and made it a two and one half story high building as it appears today. The second floor of the shop was the band hall where the Gratz Band learned their fine melodious compositions. The coming of the auto and tractor put an end to the harness business. He was justice of the peace for over 20 years, Sunday School superintendent for 25 years, taught Sunday School since 1878, and continued to serve in this capacity till he moved to Elizabethtown in 1919. He worked for the lumber company. Later he removed to Sunbury and worked for the Odd Fellows for about two years; then he was an orderly in the hospital. He died in 1925.

J. J. Buffington was married to Clara Kissinger, daughter of Daniel and Sallie (Moyer) Kissinger. They had the following children: Edna, died at the age of 12; Mollie, died at the age of 3; Wellington, died at the age of 13; John, Claude, Wilbur and Wealtha.

Wealtha, born in 1902, is married to Stewart Swab of Collingdale. Their children are: Mary, Hilda, Jim, and one dead.

John Buffington was born at Gratz in 1883. He attended the Gratz schools and learned the blacksmith trade from C. U. Kratzer and worked for him three years,

then for 27 years he was a blacksmith for the Colliery and harness repair man for the mules used in mines. Sickness caused him to quit and he lived retired in his home which he had built at the corner of South Second and Spruce Streets. John was married to Jennie Hoffman, the daughter of Clinton Hoffman. She is the fifth generation of Christian Hoffman, the third son of John Peter Hoffman. They are both deceased. Their only child Warren lives at the home-stand. He is single and the eleventh generation of the Buffington clan.

Wilbur was born in Gratz in 1900, attended school and took an active part in the society programs, attended school at Philadelphia, married to Gertie Ferster. They have two children, Wilbur in Iowa, Betty married to Charles Koppenhaver, live at Pillow, grocery store operator and postmaster. Their children are Betty Mae, Ruth Ann and Mary Ann, the 12th generation of Richard Buffington. Emily married Luther Riland, Halifax, R. D. Their children are: Lou Ann and Beverly. Mr. Buffington is a circulation manager for the Patriot in several counties. He is a Democrat and a member of the Reformed Church and resides at Elizabethtown.

Claude Buffington was born in Gratz in 1890 and received his education in the Gratz Schools. He took an active part in the home town plays and minstrels as a comedian and singer and dancer. He took over the home-stand and the barber shop by moving it up front into the saddler room. He learned the



Claude Buffington's residence and barber shop

trade when he was 12 years old. His first customers were his grandfather Samuel, Uncle George and Eugene Hoffman. He received 5c for a shave and 10c for a hair cut. In 1906 he went to Moller School, Cincinnati for further training in the business. He came home and was home for two years. In 1910 he went to Newton, Kansas to his Uncle Ed Umholtz and worked hired hand and barber. Then traveled to California and Oregon in 1917. Claude came home in 1919 and took over his dad's barber shop at the old homestead now known as "Globby's Barber Shop." Father and son have barbered for 77 years. For 65 years they worked in the same shop. Globby is married to Emma Williard. They have no children.

Emma has a son, Alvin, by a former marriage to Israel Daniel. Alvin is married to Mabel Bretzius of Tremont, and is a shoe factory worker. They had one son Alvin, Jr., who died in a sledding accident at the age of ten.

If you need a haircut or a shave, see smiling Globby. He can give you a 35c haircut and a story or lecture at the same time worth a buck and a half.

Charles E. Buffington, son of Samuel and Sara Buffington, was born in Gratz. He attended the Gratz schools until he was fourteen years of age. He then worked in the mines. Discovering that the mines were not for him, he and his family removed to Sunbury in 1906. Mr. Buffington worked at the Susquehanna Silk Mills at Sunbury for a period of thirty years. He died in 1953. He was married to Agnes Troutman, a native of Lykens Township. She died in 1934, both buried at Gratz. Their children are Lottie, who died in infancy; Nettie E., and Lester C.

Nettie E. Buffington, daughter of Charles and Agnes (Troutman) Buffington attended schools at Gratz until the family moved to Sunbury when she was thirteen. She attended the public schools where she lives. She married Thomas E. Zerbe of Sunbury. They have four sons: Brewster W., Robert S., Charles B., and Thomas E., Jr.

Brewster served in World War II as a sergeant in the U. S. Air Force and lives at home. Robert S. served in the 104th In-

fantry Timber Division, and is married to Melba Zaring of Lykens, who owns and operates a beauty shop on the hill. They have one daughter, Joan. Charles B. served as a sergeant in the U. S. Air Force, and is married to Frieda F. Arnold of Sunbury. They have three children: Gary Charles, Jill Louise and Jan Lynette. They reside at Oaklyn, Sunbury. Thomas E., Jr. served in the Korean conflict as a sergeant in the Air Force and lives at home.

Lester C. Buffington, son of Charles E. and Agnes, attended the Public Schools in Sunbury, took up law and studied at Selinsgrove Law School. He resides at Hummels Wharf, Snyder County, owns and operates approximately 200 school buses and taxi cabs. The bus line in the Sunbury - Selinsgrove area is known as the B.K.W. Lines. Mr. Buffington for the past eight years is Associate Judge



Lester C. Buffington

of Snyder County. He is married to Carrie E. Kauffman of Shamokin Dam, Pennsylvania. Their two children are (1) Betty L., graduate of Sunbury High School, who served in World War II as Lieutenant in Nursing Corps. She is married to Lemuel H. Wallace, and they have two children, Lester James, and Linda Lou, residing at Riverside, Northumberland County. (2) Patricia Ann, graduate of Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, is married to Allison Bethel, who also served in World War II. They reside in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Benjamin Buffington has more descendants in the valley than any other early settler. Allen and Rebecca (Willier) Daniel are the ninth generation, and their great-grandchildren the twelfth generation of the Richard Buffington family. Lillie (Willier) Schoffstall, Freida (Willier) Koppenhaver, Hannah (Willier) Hartman. Elma (Willier) Hartman on the maternal side and Robert Buffington on the paternal side are the ninth generation. Robert's daughter Janice is the 10th generation.

Milton, a son of John O., and Robert's father and Maude (Klinger) Buffington have ten children living, 33 grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren. There are at least thirty people in the valley who are twelfth generation members of the Richard Buffington family.

FOOTNOTE: John Peter Williard (Willier) of Huguenot descent, was a native of Switzerland, born in 1745. He came to America as a soldier in the British Service, but shortly after landing effected his escape. He then volunteered in the cause of the colonies and was stationed on the Indian frontier as a guard of prisoners of war. At the close

of the Revolution he took up a tract of land in Lykens Township called "Amsterdam" where he settled. He began farming and married Magdalena. He died in 1821 aged 76. His wife died the following year (1822) aged 77. They left the following family: Philip, Abraham, Peter, Jr., Samuel, Susana, Anna Maria, Adam and Eve, twins. Samuel patented a large tract of land near Hain's Gap, Pillow. He remained in the valley, a farmer, and had a large family. Anna Maria married John Philip Umholtz. Adam who came into possession of the homestead, married Sarah Reisch, their children: Jacob, Joseph, Maria, Jonas, Sarah, Catherine, Adam, Jr., John George, Johannes (John), Lidia, and Henry B. Joseph, John A., Henry B., and Adam, Jr. then divided the farm.

Mathias Deibler

Revolutionary Soldier

Mathias Deibler, the son of Albright Deibler, was born in Lykens Township, June 14, 1763. His father was a Captain in the Revolutionary War, known as Captain Albright Deibler. Father and son were in the Regiment known as Colonel Burd's of the Fourth Battalion, during 1776. Mathias was a private doing service in his father's company. He was a Sergeant in Captain Martin Weaver's Company, at the age of 18 years in 1781. Albright Deibler was a pioneer of the Gratz territory. He took up a tract of land of 336 acres west of Hoffman's Church in 1773. He named it "Horn Pipe." The land was deeded to others and his grandchildren.

No one knows what became of the father.

Mathias Deibler took up the homestead and lived in Lykens Valley all his life. It is said of him that when their fire burned out in the fire place, he took an iron kettle, got on the horse and rode to get some fire. He had to go over the mountains to a place near Lebanon to get the fire. On his way back he had to be very careful that the fire would not burn out. He was also afraid he would run into Indians who were out scalping white men and women. The writer of this story states that Mathias said, "Indians at that time lived all around." He fought against the Indians at the age of thirteen. Mr. Deibler died March 10, 1837. He is buried at Hoffman's Church. He was married to Miss Catharine Matter, also of Lykens Valley, be-

tween Gratz and Berrysburg. Catharine was the daughter of John J. Matter, who was a son of the late Pioneer John Adam Matter, who came over from Alsace-Lorraine or Germany in a ship known as Edinburg, Captain James Russel Madden. 345 men and women on board, in the year September 16, 1751.

John J. Matter was living at what we call the Cross Roads at the intersection of 25 and 22035, as shown on the map of 1862. In 1799 at his place the first election of Upper Paxtang was held. John Matter served as overseer of the poor in 1804. Auditor 1835 and 1838. Mr. and Mrs. Mathias Deibler were blessed with all daughters, and no sons are recorded. That explains why no Deiblers are living in Gratz. They were: (1) Sarah, married to Jacob Willier, grandson of John Peter, the soldier, who moved out to Kansas; (2) Catharine married Philip Moyer, born 1816 and died 1889. Catharine was born 1820 and died 1899. Philip lived on a farm near Millersburg. He was County Commissioner of Dauphin County for several years. He was a very able man, and later took over the homestead west of Schoffstall's School near Gratz. They had three children: Issac, Amanda, Mary. Mary was born in 1845, and married to John E. Boyer. They took over the homestead. (3) Lavina Deibler married George Willier, son of Samuel Willier, son of John Peter. Lavina and George received possession of Albright Deibler's tract called "Horn Pipe." His daughter married David Troutman.

Their sons James and Isaac live near the homestead. James owns the homestead. Isaac also has a farm cut out of the Deibler tract.

(4) Hannah Deibler married Simon Hartman; (5) Susan married William Sweitzing; (6) Anna married Solomon Smeltz, and (7) Rebecca married Henry Kebach. The farm was then divided and Rebecca and Henry received one of the farms, now owned by Lee Knorr. Mark Kebach, a descendant of Henry, lives in Gratz. Other descendants live in the valley and at Pillow. (8) Polly never married. (9) Christianna married Sebastian Henninger. Mathias Deibler patented a tract of land north of his father's 336 acres and named it "Lewisburg."

The homestead at one time was owned by Philip and Catharine (Deibler) Moyer. At their death Isaac Henninger, the grandson of Mathias, bought the farm. Isaac was born 1862 and died in 1943. He greatly improved the farm, and farmed until his retirement. He was married to Etta Catharine Romberger. Their children are all living in the Gratz and Berrysburg community, except the youngest. They are: Charles; Lillie, Mrs. Earl Stine; Carrie, Mrs. Eston R. Klinger; John; and Laura, Mrs. Lee Emerson Boyer, Millersville, Penna. Charles Edward Henninger was born Oct. 9, 1888 on the Mathias homestead, m. to Clara Elva Troutman, daughter of Isaac and Mary Hoffman Troutman, a life long resident on one of the small farms cut out of Horn Pipe, ancestors of George and Lavina Deibler Willier. Charles received his education in the township schools, and at the age of 17 was able to pass the County Teachers Certificate, and taught school, mostly in Lykens Township for 17 years. He purchased a farm cut out of Horn Pipe, and later a neighboring farm. They are engaged in general farming, and beef cattle. He is tax collector of Lykens Township since 1932. Their children are: Margaret Etta, m. Charles Frederick Leer, a mechanic at Edgemont Garage, E'ville, Pa., and live across the road on the farm where they built a new ranch home. They have two children, Shirley Elaine, office clerk in Muskins Shoe Co., m. Ronald Lee Yeager, a tap and reamer mechanic in

Millersburg, Pa.; Forrest Frederick at home, a senior in Upper Dauphin High; Pershing Allen, m. Barbara Anita Sultzbaugh, live on the farm. They have no children. Pershing is justice of the peace in Lykens Township for three years; Lee Isaac, m. Jean Kathryn Straub. They have one daughter Yvonne Elva. They live on the other farm; Russell Edward at home. The boys do the farm work and are in the building business. They remodel homes, dairy barns, build chicken houses, garages, barns, homes, and you name it and it will be built. The Henningers are active workers in the Reformed Church at Hoffman's. Mrs. Charles Henninger is the organist for Sunday School and church for many years. Lee is a teacher and superintendent of the Sunday School. Harry bought the homestead. He is married to Etta Willier, the fifth generation of the John Peter Williers. (See Benjamin Buffington History.) Carrie E. Henninger, m. Eston R. Klinger, they live on the Pillow-Berrysburg road, engaged in trucking, farming and cattle raising, purchased the Tom Hoffman farm north of E'ville and later the Tom and John Hermon, and Lenker farms, in all about 600 acres, along the Wiconisco Creek. He was partner in the Klinger Lumber Company and at present operator of the Upper Coal Plant. They had a herd of Herefords and at times as high as 300 beef cattle on the farms. Their children are: Violet who for 19 years was chief clerk at the Edgemont Garage at E'ville. She was married to Captain Arthur Klinger, residing at Columbus, O.; E. LeRoy, m. Renee Holtzman, and have three children, Lamar, Linda, and Lois. LeRoy is clerk at the Coal Plant, and lives on the E'ville farm; Earl, m. Mildred Burrell, have two children, Richard and Susan, lives at E'ville, where he has a lumber yard, sells and delivers all kinds of building materials; Lorraine, m. Clyde Witmer, residing with her parents, while her husband serves in the Army in Germany; John Henninger, m. Annie Holtzman, daughter of Harry and Mary Holtzman, they moved to Berrysburg. He learned the carpenter trade. He and his sons are builders and contractors. They also have a lumber yard. Their one set of twins are: Elwood, m. Myrtle Miller, and live in Berrysburg. Myrtle is a state employee at

Harrisburg, Pa.; Norwood, m. Hannah Umholtz, a resident of Gratz where they reside. She operates the Hannah's Beauty Shoppe in the upper end of town. They have no children.

The granddaughter of Mathias Deibler, Katie Henninger, lived in Gratz for a quarter of a century after retiring from the farm.

She was married to Daniel Hartman. Their two sons live in town: Joe at the lower end, a farmer, huckster, and fruit grower. George in the upper end, a retired farmer. One granddaughter, Sally Henninger is still living. She is married to Cloyd Miller and lives west of the Deibler "Lewisburg," in Mifflin Township. They raised a large family.

The Daniel Good Family (Reedy and Boyer)

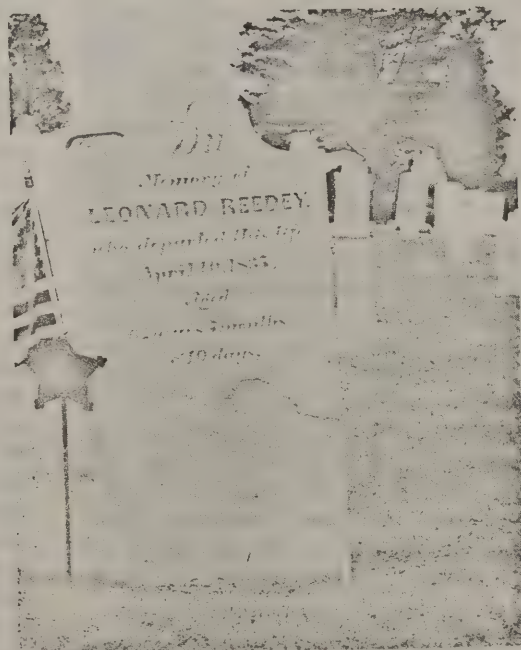
The history of the family of Daniel Good and his wife, Margaret Reedy Good, prominent residents of Gratz for almost half a century previous to 1885, goes back to Lorentz Guth and his wife Mary, who came from Rheinfals, Germany, to Philadelphia in 1738. Their third son, Adam Guth, was the father of Daniel Good. From the books showing the assessment of property we learn that in 1825 the spelling of the family name was changed from Guth to Good.

Adam Good was a farmer and blacksmith. His wife was Magdalena Ulrich. They lived at Selinsgrove, where he died about 1840-45 and his wife died in 1858. Their children, as recorded in their old German Family Bible, were George, born 1800, Magdalena, 1802, Charles, 1805, John, 1807, Daniel, October 26, 1809, Elizabeth, 1811, Catherine, 1813, Susana, 1816, Adam, 1818, and Amelia (Millie), 1822.

Daniel, fourth son of Adam and Magdalena Ulrich Good, born October 26, 1809, at Selinsgrove received his education in the schools of his native village. He learned the tanning trade with a Mr. Ulrich of Selinsgrove. After a thorough mastery of his chosen vocation he moved to Gratz, Dauphin County. Here he formed a partnership with Samuel Ritter. They soon established a lucrative business.

While thus engaged, being of an active and industrious bent, the Maffert's Tannery at Loyalton was leased and run as a branch. Work was carefully supervised at both tanneries. About this time Daniel Good was married to Miss Margaret Reedy, of Gratz, daughter of Leonard and Elizabeth Reedy.

Leonard Reedy served in the War of 1812. After his discharge he settled in Gratz. He was a gunsmith by trade. He made guns with distinctive characteristics, some of which are still prized as antiques. One of them is now worth about \$450. He also repaired locks and did most anything around the house for the women in Gratz that was too difficult for the husbands to repair.



Grave of Leonard Reedy—Union Cemetery, Gratz

After becoming Justice of the Peace of Gratz, Leonard Reedy served in that capacity until his death in 1837. His docket book, No. 5, is preserved to this day, also a work book for his arithmetic in school, and ac-

counts he had with people in the Gratz community. He is buried in the Gratz cemetery.

Daniel and Margaret Reedy Good had eleven children: Sarah, born 1834, married Samuel Schoffstall, had six children; one, Henry, taught school in Gratz and Lykens Township for seven years and 21 years as a Railroad employee; Jeremiah, 1836, married Lovina Kissinger, had 15 children, moved to Iowa, 1889; Catharine, 1837, married Josiah Stine, who had a tannery near Rife, three children; Daniel A., 1840, married Sarah Hess, millwright, five children, lived at Loy-alton; Mary A., 1842, never married, seamstress, boarding house in Philadelphia; John L., Civil War veteran, married Cassiah Schreffler, nine children, moved to Boone, Iowa, 1869; Emma Jane, 1847, married Jonathan Umholtz, six children, Philadelphia; Amelia, 1849, full sketch below; Henry, 1852, married Eliza Enterline, nine children, Tremont; George Washington, 1854, died in infancy; Ann Ellen Margaret, 1859; died 1862.

Later the partnership of Good and Ritter was dissolved and the tannery at Loy-alton discontinued. Mr. Good now divided his attention, attending to the tannery at Gratz, several farms, the brick flour mill at Loy-alton, and the office of Justice of the Peace of Gratz, holding said office to the time of his death.

Daniel Good was a big man in his community. For 20 years he settled the disputes among his neighbors and did their legal writing. His life was one of intense activity. He was one of the founders of the oldest banking house in Upper Dauphin County—The First National Bank of Millersburg. For more than 20 years, and up to the time of his death, he held the office of elder in the Reformed Church of his town. He died November 21, 1870, at the age of 61 years and 25 days. His wife, Margaret Reedy Good, died September 3, 1885, at the age of 73 years and five months.

Amelia Good, born November 19, 1849, attended school in the Log School House, which stood just a stone's throw from her home. She taught school in Elizabethville

and in Washington Township. She was married on February 2, 1873, to John Franklin Boyer, son of Mr. and Mrs. William S. Boyer, Gratz. William S. Boyer was a cousin of Philip Boyer, who sold land to Adam Guth of Selinsgrove in 1823. With the exception of eight years of their married life, when they moved to Donaldson, Pa., two years, and on their farm west of Gratz, six years, they spent their wedded life in Gratz, on the lot mentioned above. Amelia united with Simeon's Reformed Church at Gratz and was a faithful member of the church. She was a regular teacher in the Reformed Sunday School at Gratz for many years and in later life substitute teacher. She also taught Sunday School at Elizabethville and Donaldson. She was an active member of the Christian Endeavor Society of her church. In her home she was a student of the Bible, a Christian mother, and a patient wife.

At the time of their marriage Mr. Boyer was a partner with Jonathon Umholtz in the General Store at Gratz. Later he was a miner. They built their home on a lot adjoining the Daniel Good homestead, site of the first church in the community. Five children were born to them, Carrie May, Joseph Daniel, Katie Grace, who died at the age of a year and four months, Christiana Margaret and Miriam Amelia.

Carrie May Boyer, born November 24, 1873, attended Gratz and Lykens Township schools. She taught one term of subscription school in Lykens Township. She married a fellow teacher, Jacob M. Boyer, April 9, 1893. They lived continuously on their 150 acre farm in Lykens Township, where Mr. Boyer was one of the first to use improved methods and equipment. He died there September 6, 1943. Mrs. Boyer died in Lyndhurst, N. J., April 8, 1946, while on a visit at the home of her sister.

Two children were born to Jacob and Carrie Boyer, Lee Emerson, July 27, 1900, and Mary Amelia, September 18, 1902. Both attended school in Lykens Township and Berrysburg High School.

Lee E. Boyer, 406 North George Street, Millersville, Pa., is a graduate of Susquehanna University, holds a Master's degree in

Education from Harvard University, and his Doctor's degree in Education from The Pennsylvania State University, University Park. He taught at Loysville, Pa., joined the faculty at Millersville State Teachers College in 1934 and has been head of the Mathematics Department there since 1948. Dr. Boyer is the author of "Introduction to Mathematics for Teachers", published in 1945, and is in demand as a lecturer on Mathematics.

Lee E. Boyer and Miss Laura Henninger of Lykens Township were married March 25, 1921. They have two daughters, Romaine Evelyn, born September 30, 1928, graduate of Millersville State Teachers College, taught at Langhorne, Pa., and married a fellow teacher, William E. Macht, of Philadelphia, June 18, 1950. Mr. Macht holds a bachelor's and Master's degree from The University of Pennsylvania. He is a veteran of World War II when he was the commanding officer of a ship in the Pacific Area. They live at 330 Station Avenue, Langhorne. They have a daughter, Laura Lee, born April 25, 1954. Dolores Elaine, second daughter of Lee and Laura Henninger Boyer, born February 15, 1934, is a graduate of Millersville State Teachers College and presently teaching in Lancaster, Pa.

Mary Amelia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob M. Boyer, is a graduate of The Pennsylvania State University and taught school at Dimock, Pa. She was married August 14, 1925, to Edwin J. Anderson, who is Professor of Agriculture at The Pennsylvania State University, also his Alma Mater. They live at 307 South Garner Street, State College, Pa.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have five children, Ray, born October 7, 1928, graduate of Pennsylvania State University and holds a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering from Ohio State University, married Marlyn Miller of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, January 15, 1955, live at Ft. Wayne, where he is with General Electric; Grace, born March 21, 1931, graduate of Pennsylvania State University, married on June 20, 1953, to Bruce Singer of Norristown, who is a topographic cartographer for the U. S. Geological Survey, also a graduate of Pennsylvania State

University, live in Arlington, Va., and have twin daughters, Nancy Elizabeth and Jacqueline Carol, born August 31, 1955; Leona, born July 30, 1932, graduate of Pennsylvania State University, presently with the YWCA in Bradford, Pa.; Mary Elizabeth, born February 20, 1935, and Paul Allen, born January 5, 1937, both students at Pennsylvania State University.

Christiana Margaret, daughter of Frank and Amelia Good Boyer, born June 12, 1884, graduate of Millersville Normal School, taught school three years in Dauphin County, two years in Lancaster County, and four years in Short Hills, N. J. She was married June 17, 1912, to John S. Latsha of Pillow, Pa., who died February 17, 1948, at their home, 273 Livingston Avenue, Lyndhurst, N. J. They have one daughter, Margaret Amelia, born November 9, 1924.

Mrs. Latsha is the author of the "Adam Good Family History," published in 1914. For the past 28 years she has been a news correspondent, presently with the Newark (N. J.) News and the Passaic (N. J.) Herald News, dailies, and the Commercial Leader, weekly Lyndhurst paper.

Margaret Amelia Latsha, married September 6, 1946, to William W. Reid, Jr., of Whitestone, Long Island, N. Y., lives at Camptown, Pa., where Mr. Reid is serving his sixth year as minister of the Camptown Charge of the Methodist Church.

Margaret is a graduate of Oberlin College, Oberlin, O., where she also received a Master of Arts degree in Religious Education from the Oberlin School of Theology. Her husband is an Oberlin classmate and they also were graduated together from the Divinity School of Yale University with Bachelor of Divinity degrees. The Rev. Mr. Reid is a World War II veteran, Medical Corps, and was held prisoner by the Germans for eight months. They have two children, Philip David, born March 16, 1951, and Elizabeth Margaret, born June 26, 1953.

Miriam Amelia Boyer, youngest child of Frank and Amelia Good Boyer, was born October 16, 1888. She is a graduate of the Philadelphia Museum School of Art, Phila-

delphia, class of 1914; taught and supervised art in the schools of Chisholm, Minnesota, 1914-1917; Reading, Pa., High School for Girls, 1917 to 1927; and in Philadelphia Junior High Schools from 1927 to her retirement in June, 1953.

Miriam has a deep interest in antiques and is an authority on things of bygone years. She uses her painting and artistic abilities in restoring old furniture and making articles for the home. She lives in her parents' homestead in Gratz.

The Isaac Hepler Family

It was early in 1748 when the Hoeplers, Casper, his wife Susanna and two sons, Jacob and Christopher, set sail on the ship *Patience* from Rotterdam, Holland for the New World. The records show that Casper (Hoepler) Hepler was the seventeenth person to sign the usual forms at the Philadelphia Court House on September 16, 1748.

The family settled in Upper Milford Township, then Northampton County, near Fort Allen, now Allentown. Two sons were born there, Casper and George, who with Jacob and Christopher served in the war of the Revolution. One of the sons, Casper, married Anna Maria Schmidt in Upper Milford in 1772 and came to the Mahantango Valley with his family in 1798. A younger son, Christopher, married Catherine Wagner and among their children was George W. Hepler, born in March, 1810, who later became the father of Isaac Hepler.



Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Hepler

George W. Hepler was married to Hannah Kreitzer and died April 15, 1847 at the age of 37 years, leaving his wife and eight small children, the oldest being only ten years of age. Isaac Hepler was born on August 5, 1840 at Pitman, Mahantango Valley, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. He was the fourth child and the youngest son, John, was born after the death of the father. The mother, Hannah Hepler, died five years later. The farm was sold and the children placed in the homes of relatives, who gave them the best training they could. The children were Andrew, Isaac, George, John, Catherine (Mrs. John Burger), Hannah (Mrs. John B. Cox), Lizzie (Mrs. David Willard), and Mary who died very young.

Isaac Hepler enlisted on October 28, 1862 from Schuylkill County and was mustered into the United States Army at Harrisburg on October 28, 1862 as a Private in Company K, 172nd Regiment, Penna. Infantry under Capt. Frank A. Hoffman and Col. Charles Kleckner. The regiment left for Washington, D. C., then to Newport News, Va., on December 4th. Then on to Yorktown, Va., on December 12th, 1862. Private Hepler was assigned to garrison duty at Yorktown, Va., until June 1863. He participated in Dix's Peninsula campaign of Virginia from June 27th to July 4th, 1863. He joined the Army of the Potomac July 14th, was attached to the 3rd Division, 11th Corps in pursuit of the rebel army retreating from Gettysburg, Pa., to Warrenton Junction, Va., and was honorably discharged on August 1st, 1863 at Harrisburg, Pa., at the expiration of his term of service. He was a member of Kissinger Post, G.A.R., Dept. of Pennsylvania, Gratz, Pa.

Mr. Hepler was married to Matilda Knerr, who died leaving him with one son, Lewis Hepler. On November 25, 1875 he

was married to Amanda Barbara Harper. Their children were George, Joseph, Lottie (Mrs. A. Z. Ritzman), Thomas, Hannah (Mrs. Curtis A. Miller), Robert and Anna (Mrs. Harry S. Smeltzer). Lewis, George, Joseph and Robert are deceased. Remaining are four children, twelve grandchildren, twenty-eight great-grandchildren and twelve great-great-grandchildren. Mr. Hepler was a farmer and conducted a general store in Gratz, Pa., for many years. He died on July 23, 1918; Mrs. Hepler died on November 21, 1938.

George E. Hepler, the oldest child of Isaac and Amanda Hepler, and the only one of the children who spent his entire life in Gratz, was born in 1877 and in 1900 was married to Beulah M. Tobias, daughter of Oscar T. and Mary (Good) Tobias. He conducted a huckster business through the coal regions for a number of years, in addition to which he acquired land and became a successful farmer. Mr. Hepler was a registered Republican and served on the Gratz Borough Council for about twenty years. He died in May, 1932 at the age of fifty-four. The descendants of George and Beulah Hepler, with very few exceptions, reside in Gratz, or the beautiful Lykens Valley. Their children are five in number, namely:

Blanche E., living with her mother and at present employed by the Muskin Shoe Company, Millersburg, Pa. She was Vice-President of the Gratz Sesqui-centennial

Organization, is an active member of the Evangelical-Congregational Church and has held a number of official positions in the local congregation, including pianist, during the years.

Lewis M. is a dairy farmer and fruit grower in the Borough of Gratz. He is married to Lottie C., the daughter of John F. M. and Carrie (Maurer) Schminky. Their children are Warren D., Ernest L., Evelyn M., Anne L., George I. and John L. Hepler.

Harry H. is a machinist and is employed by a Machine Tool Company. He and his brother Ben grow, make and pack the famous "Hepler Bros. Carmel Pop-Corn." He is married to Laura E., the daughter of Edward A. and Idella (Witmer) Minnich. Their children are Lorraine B., Harry H., Jr., Glenn L., Jack A., Kenneth C. and Beverly J. Hepler.

J. Frederick, deceased, was an electrician and was employed by a large Steel Company when he was accidentally killed on July 25, 1943. He was married to Mae M., the daughter of the late Daniel and Eva (Koppenhaver) Enders. Their children are Thomas F., and Carson D. Hepler.

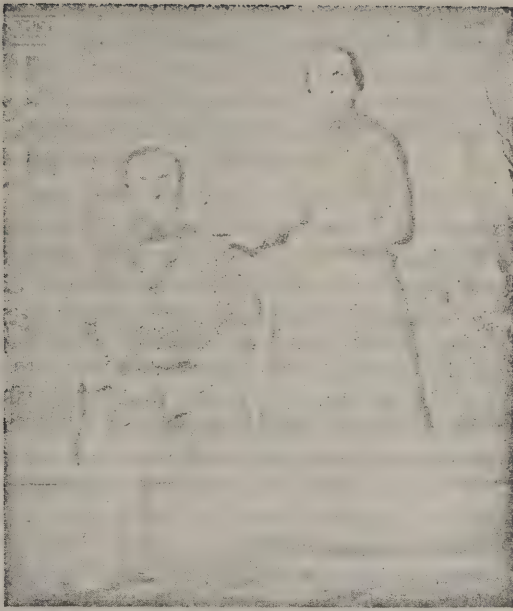
Benjamin I. is a farmer, beef-cattle feeder and fruit grower. He is married to Mary E., daughter of Curtis G. and the late Bertha (Klock) Updegrove. Their children are Curtis G. and James F. Hepler.

The Hess Family

Arthur Hess, retired farmer and tax collector of Gratz, was born in Lykens Township in 1877. He attended school in the new brick schoolhouse and at Schoffstall's, worked for his father until he was 15 years old. Then he removed to Gratz. His grandfather, Solomon Hess, Sr., was reared a farmer and continued in that calling. Solomon was married in Dauphin County to Eva Saltzer. After his marriage he took up his residence in Lykens Township. He had a large tract of land east of Schoffstall's school house, which is now three farms. On the homestead they had a large brick yard where they made bricks for Berrysburg

houses that were built during that period. They also had the first cider press that was located near Gratz. On the farm was a large Rambo apple orchard. J. E. A. Moyer later purchased the farm and he removed the last of the Rambo orchard. Solomon's wife Eva spent her latter years in Gratz, where she died about 1878. Mr. Hess died in Loyaltown at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Daniel Good, in 1880 or 1881. Their children were: Sarah Delilah, John, Catherine, Harry, Solomon, Cornelia, Charles, Riely, and Emma.

Sarah Delilah was married to Daniel Good, a son of Daniel and Margaret (Reedy)



Solomon Hess and Eva Saltzer Hess

Good, of Gratz, in 1860. Sarah attended school in Lykens Twp. After their marriage they moved to Loyalton. He was a millwright. A letter from Mr. Good gives the following account of the way his days were spent: "I lived at Gratz, where I received my education in the old log school house which stood near my father's home at Gratz. Early in life I united with the Reformed Church at Gratz and remained a member there all my life. I served the church as a deacon. I served as Director of the Poor in Dauphin County and was appointed a Justice of the Peace in May 1822, later being elected for 5 years. My first occupation was flour milling. I served my apprenticeship in 1857 and followed milling until 1882. Then I started millwrighting. I worked under-handed on several jobs then took charge of work as foreman and was sent over lots of territory by the mill furnishing companies. I worked for two large firms. I retired at Loyalton. I had no special hardships; was always successful in my work and built mills in eleven states. I never had any trouble with my work not giving satisfaction." They had five children.

They are: Mary L., Solomon S., Ariel Daniel, and Jennie. Their second child, Ellen Margaret, died in 1875.

Ariel Daniel Good, the second son of Daniel and Sarah Hess Good, was born at their home in Washington Township, October 28, 1866. He received a common school education in his native township and also attended Gratz Academy and Elizabethtown Seminary. In 1898 he was united in marriage to Gertie A. Schoffstall, a native of Lykens Township. They have five children: Effie, Leonard D., Earl F., Sarah D., and John W. Mr. Good is a member of the Reformed Church. He has served as Judge of Elections in Washington Township. He had been engaged as a miller and a millwright and in 1914 he was a merchant of Loyalton, Pennsylvania.

Leonard D. Good was born in Washington Township in 1902, the grandson of Sarah (Hess) Good. He attended school in Washington Township and two years at Gratz, staying with his aunt, Mary L., Mrs. Oscar T. Tobias. After school he worked at public works and took up the butcher business for a quarter of a century, after which ill health caused him to retire. He lives on a farm which he purchased in 1924 on Route 209, east of Millersburg. He was married to Hilda S. Barry 33 years ago. She is a daughter of John and Mary Ellen (Miller) Barry. Their children are: Leonard D., Jr., married to Meriam, the widow of Guy Kessler, Hilda Marie, was married, and Jean L., single. Both girls are at home and are employed at the Regal Shirt Factory at Millersburg. They have three grandchildren, Carl and Eugene Shiffer, Roger Lee Good. The family belongs to the Reformed Church at Elizabethtown. Leonard D. served as deacon, elder, for more than 20 years. He is no politician, and wouldn't give two cents for politics.

Sarah Delilah Good was born in Washington Township. She is the next to the youngest child. She attended the rural schools of her native township, and graduated at Lykens High School in 1927. She is married to Arthur R. Miller, a coal miner at the Markson Coal Company, until it went into bankruptcy. He then started his own business as a salesman for storm doors and windows, awnings, and stone siding. If you are in need, see Arthur. Their children are:

Verna, who died at the age of thirteen; Helen, who is married to Harleth Unger, and they live in Harrisburg. She is a graduate of Lykens High School, and works for the Public Utility Commission. Her husband is working at Middletown.

John Hess was born in Lykens Township, January 31, 1840, the eldest son of Solomon, Sr. He attended school in the township only in the winter and only for about one month in each year. He began regular farm work at the age of 8 years and was employed on the homestead until he was 23 years of age. He then rented a farm in Lykens Township, containing eighty acres which he worked for two years and also ninety acres belonging to his father for two years. He next went into the hotel business, buying property at Pillow, for which he paid \$7,000, a part of which he had saved from his years of farming. He kept the hotel for one year and sold it for \$9,000, and in 1869 bought a farm of ninety acres of his father's in Lykens Township. The farm is shown on the map of 1875 west of Gratz. This he improved by erecting a brick dwelling for \$3,000 and a barn for \$2,500, and otherwise improved the place. He raised stock and attended the markets at Williamstown, and also took a great interest in county fairs. He was married in Upper Paxton Township in 1862 to Caroline Moyer, who was born in the present Beulah Hepler home, on January 10, 1844, the daughter of George Moyer, blacksmith in Gratz.

John and Caroline Hess had two children, Mary C., and Annie M. Mary C. married Nathan Hartman, who died in 1891. The Hartmans' only child, Annie, is married to John A. Boyer, cashier of the Lykens Valley Bank, at Elizabethtown, Pa. The other child, Annie M., was never married. She was a seamstress and made her home with her parents.

Mary C. was married a second time to Luther Byerly. They farmed the old Hess homestead and had one child, John.

The John A. Boyers now own the homestead and operate the farm, raising general crops and Angus beef cattle. They have three children, John, Robert and Mary Caroline.

John J. N. Boyer, graduate of Elizabethtown High School, studied at Ursinus College, and University of Penna. at Philadelphia, a graduate of Ithaca Conservatory of Music with B.S. Degree, and has a Masters Degree in Music from University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, Michigan. He taught music in the Public Schools at Phoenix, Arizona, Casa Grande, Arizona, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, Hubley High School, east of Gratz, and at present he is at Northumberland High School, Northumberland, Pennsylvania.

Robert L. Boyer, graduate of West Philadelphia High School, graduated with a B.S. Degree from Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pennsylvania, and has a Master's Degree in Physics from Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania. Robert was employed by the Federal Government Bureau of Mines at Pittsburgh for fifteen years. He is now residing in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Mary Caroline Boyer, graduate of West Philadelphia High School, Philadelphia Normal School, Drexel Institute of Home Economics, all of Philadelphia, taught for seven years in the Public Schools of Philadelphia. She earned her Master's Degree from Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kansas, majoring in textiles. She was employed by the Federal Government at Beltsville, Maryland, and the Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C. From there she went to American Viscose Corporation at Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania, where she is head of the Educational Department of Research. She is now residing at Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania.

Mr. John Hess moved to Gratz in the early nineties and built a new 2½ story dwelling where the Lykens Hotel had been located on Center and Market Streets. He was a Republican and served as school director for three years, tax collector three years, and assessor one year. He was a member of the Reformed Church, and was an elder for two years; Catherine, daughter of Solomon and Eva, was married to Michael Hartman.

Harry Hess was reared in Lykens Township and took to farming. He took

over one of his father's farms at Schoff-stall's School House and bought the farm. Later he moved to Pillow in the hotel business, then the hotel at Big Run and later at Lykens, which they proprietored for a number of years. They removed to Gratz, Center and Market Streets, where they remained the rest of their lives. He was married to Eliza Umholtz, daughter of John Umholtz, a farmer. He died at the age of 82 years. Their children were: Lizzie, Mrs. Charles Blyler; Catherine, Mrs. Cyrus Tobias, who lived in Tremont; Sallie, Mrs. Morris Wiest, by whom she had two children, Mae and Jay, at Philadelphia. After the death of her husband, she married Joe Laudenslager. They retired and lived in Gratz.

Harvey Hess was married to Miss Katie Wolf. He was a share crop farmer and quit farming in 1924. Their children are: (1) Walter, served in World War II. He was never married. He died from the effects of malaria which he contracted during the war. He was a town cop for a number of years. (2) Mollie, married to Charles Daniel, one son Don, a factory worker in Gratz; (3) Laura, married to Fred Evitts, deceased. They have no children; (4) Edna, unmarried; Carrie Hess, married to Fred Sandt, lived at Lykens; Lewis Hess, bachelor, lives in town. For the past 50 years he was the handy man in town. Don't be too hard on him since now he is in his 70th year and not able to get on Social Security. He doesn't know how many graves he helped to dig in the cemetery.

Charles Hess, the father of Arthur, was born in Lykens Township. He worked at home with his father and finally took over the homestead and took up farming. In the meantime he started a new enterprise. The meadow on the farm had a rich deep clay bottom. So he started a brick factory and made bricks till he removed to Gratz. He also erected the first cider press in the community. He continued as a road huckster, first to Williamstown and later to Shamokin to market. He specialized in cabbage, potatoes, apples, and vegetables. They also made ice cream and took it along to market. Mr. Hess farmed about 18 years

and removed to Gratz to go into the restaurant business on the west corner of Center and Market, and also in livery stable business. This was the new taxi springing up in every town at this time. The horses were the motive power of that day. The teams were hired by the salesmen who came to town or passengers who came by stage and wanted to travel elsewhere in the Valley. The town people hired the teams when they wanted to travel to neighboring towns and valleys, especially for wedding trips, for newlyweds. About the year 1893, he built the Gratz Bakery which made him a very prosperous businessman. They produced the first fresh bread in town that fall and began to serve Gratz, Klingerstown, Mahantango Valley, as far as Pitman; later as far as Franklin Square. From Pitman they went down Swoven Creek Valley as far as Leck Kill and back to Gratz, all in a day's trip from dark to dark. They served Berrysburg and Pillow as far as Herndon. It was the first bakery in the Valley this side of Elizabethtown. His son, Harry, learned the trade and took over the bakery until his death. His father then retired and attended to the farming in the Gratz Borough.

Mr. Hess was married to Emma C. Leob, daughter of Leobold Leob. Mr. Leob was in the butcher business and ran a distillery in town. Their children are: Charles, Harry, Arthur and Jennie, who died as an infant. Charles married Laura Kitzmiller, attended the Gratz schools and also the Gratz Summer School. He took the county examination and taught school the first year at Troutman's on the other side of Mahantango Mountain, then Salada's, east of Gratz. He removed to Philadelphia after he was married. Both are deceased. They have one girl living. Harry, the Gratz baker since he was sixteen, continued in that business and made the better enriched bread and other tasties in the Valley for many years. He was married to Jennie Shade. Their children are: Mae, married to Leo Rogers; Roy, deceased, married to Alma Wise; Forrest, a bachelor at home who served in World War II. All the members of the Hess family belonged to the

Reformed Church at Gratz. Harry held various offices in town. He served as tax collector and on the Borough Council.

W. Arthur Hess has an Indenture of his Grandmother's lot dated 1830, made between Simon Gratz, Philadelphia Mer-

chant, and Jacob Echler, Lot No. 49 on the north side of town on Market Street. The Hess ancestors came from the Hessians who were hired by England to fight the colonies, and skipped when they had to surrender at Trenton and stayed in the colonies. They first settled in Berks County.

Squire George Hoffman



Courtesy — Valley Citizen

Squire George Hoffman

Squire George Hoffman was born in 1798. He was the son of John Nicholas Hoffman and the grandson of John Peter Hoffman, the first Hoffman in the valley, who had settled at the western end of Short Mountain about 1750.

George Hoffman moved to Gratz in 1819. He became a justice of the peace in 1834, and served in that office many years. According to old records he was still active in this office in 1881, when he was the oldest man in town. His house and office stood on the site now occupied by the Gratz National Bank. In his later years Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Buffington lived in this property and made a home for him.

Squire Hoffman was quite a character. The story goes that when he administered an oath he always concluded not with the traditional "So help me God," but with the much more effective "So hohl mich Gott."

One of the squire's daughters married Edward Thomas and became the mother of a daughter Catherine (Katie). Katie was married to Willie Umholtz.

Katie's two sons, Walter F. and Clayton J. Umholtz, affectionately dedicate this space in memory of their great-grandfather, the squire.

A Silver Anniversary

DR. ARTHUR ALBERT HORN

In October of the Gratz Sesquicentennial Year, Dr. Arthur A. Horn, our local physician will have completed 25 years in the practice of medicine in the community.

Born in a neighboring town of Hegins, in the year 1906, but reared in the Heckscher-

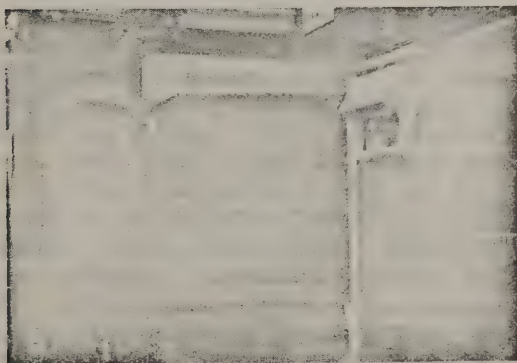
ville Valley, Schuylkill County, he graduated from Cass Township High School in June 1923. The ensuing September, Dr. Horn matriculated in the Pre-Medical College of Hahnemann Hospital in Philadelphia. Four years later the degree of Bachelor of Science was conferred upon him by that institution.

In June 1929, he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the Hahnemann College of Philadelphia. Doctor Horn was the second youngest member of the graduating class that year, of which there were seventy-two.

The next twelve months were spent in a rotating internship at the Women's Homeopathic Hospital in Philadelphia. That training qualified him for the State Medical Board examinations, and in September 1930 he was licensed to practice Medicine and Surgery in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

On October 10, 1930, he opened his office in Gratz, having been introduced to the town folk by Ellis Tobias, a former resident, but now living in Tremont, Pa.

For eighteen years Dr. Horn conducted the Well Baby Clinic in Gratz, assisted by Mary Girard, R.N., now deceased, then Beulah Anspach, R.N., and followed by the former Jane Chester, R.N.



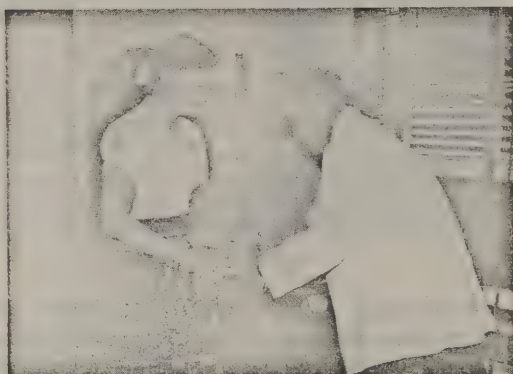
Dr. Horn's office entrance

In the year 1931, on January 24, he married Helen E. Felsburg, a daughter of George Felsburg, of Minersville, Pennsylvania. His wife is an alumna of West Chester State Teachers College, having graduated in the

year 1931. There was born of that marriage, on April 4, 1944, a daughter Cynthia Diane.

Dr. Horn is serving out his eleventh year as member of the Gratz Board of Education. He and his family are always interested in the welfare of the community, its schools and organizations.

Approximately 950 babies were brought into the world under his direction. On this anniversary he wishes he had twenty-five dollars to give to each one of them.



Dr. Horn giving first polio injection in Gratz, October, 1955. School nurse, Miss Helen Reed assisting.

Doctor Horn is a member of the medical fraternity, Phi Alpha Sigma, Fraternal Order of Moose, Millersburg Lodge, Dauphin County Medical Society, Pennsylvania State Medical Society, the Homeopathic Medical Society of Pennsylvania, and the National College of Chest Physicians.

He enjoys good music and plays the violin since childhood, having studied at the Braun School of Music in Pottsville.

His wife is a good pianist, and for the future, Cynthia is receiving instructions on the piano and French horn.

The Klinger Family

Ancestors of Fae (Klinger) Umholtz

Daniel S. Klinger, the father of Fae (Klinger) Umholtz, was of the fifth generation of their family in this country, and was born in Hubley Township, which bor-

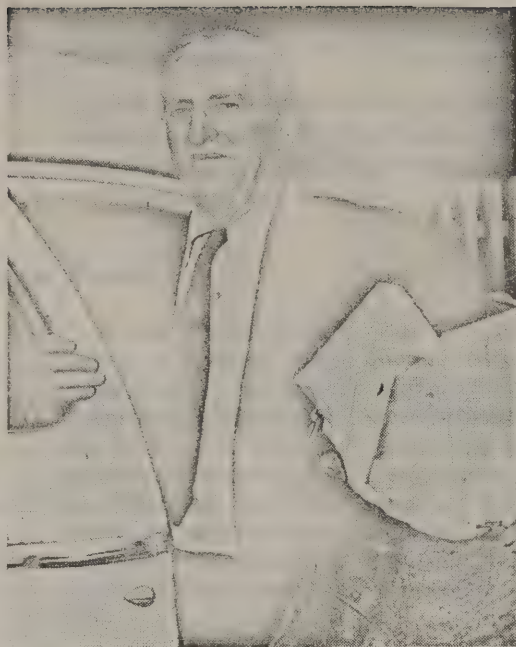
ders Dauphin County on the east, in 1850. Since he was a brother of Carolina (Klinger) Miller a record of their great-great-great-grandparents is found there. He was edu-

cated in the common schools of his native place. He also attended Freeburg Seminary in 1869, and Berrysburg Seminary in 1870. He afterwards taught school for seventeen winter terms and two summer terms, and was Secretary of the Gratz Fair Board for many years. Mr. Klinger was a Democrat. He served several terms in the Gratz Council, also had been judge of elections for one term. In 1885 Daniel S., with his brother George S., bought the general stock of goods of William Erdman at Gratz and for the rest of his life he was a storekeeper. On May 1, 1886, the store and most of the goods were destroyed by the big fire in Gratz. They erected the present store, which was completed in December 1888, they, having after the fire occupied the Odd Fellows Building with their business. Their store was very complete and their stock full in all lines of their business. They also had a road huckster route to the mining towns over the Old Pottsville Road. The father died in 1909, at the age of 59.

Mr. D. S. Klinger was married in Upper Mahantango Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, February 9, 1873 to Miss Lizzie, daughter of Nathan and Rachel (Montelius) Erdman. Their seven children are: Alvin, born in 1874 and died in infancy; Meta, born October 9, 1875, and died in 1913 at the age of 38; Ursula, born November 9, 1879, and died in 1951. Both girls were unmarried. Eston was born May 23, 1885. All the children received their education in the New Brick School Building on "Wild Cat Ridge." Eston was one of the pupils in the graduating class of Gratz High School on April 1, 1901. Eston was married to Henrietta Dubrink of Paulsboro, New Jersey. They have one child, Kathryn, married to Harold James, of Oaklyn, New Jersey.

After Eston left school at Gratz, he lived in Oaklyn, and worked for the New York Ship Building Company in Camden for 45 years. He died in 1948 at the age of 63.

Guy was born February 1, 1889. When he finished school at Gratz, he was about to take the county teachers' examination to become a teacher. That spring a Civil Service test was given for a rural mail carrier from Gratz. He took the exam, and came



Guy R. Klinger

out with a 98½+, the highest grade in the class. From then on he was the rural mail carrier all his life. The first route started from Gratz, and covered Lykens Township. About ten years later the route was enlarged and the mail started from Loyaltown, giving more farmers the daily mail service. About ten years later the route was again enlarged and the mail started from Lykens, giving the people in Coaldale and the Lower Williams Valley the benefit of the daily mail. It is a trip of about 25 miles, which would not have been possible had not the tin Lizzy and better roads taken the place of the horse and buggy. The rural mail route now has a hard-surfaced road for the entire distance. He was also Secretary of the Gratz Fair Board for many, many years, and mail carrier for 42 years. Guy was married to Carrie Umholtz, daughter of Willie Umholtz, a resident of Gratz. They lived in Lykens, Pennsylvania, in the Post Office Building, which he had bought. They had one child, Lois, married to John Good, from Lykens. Mr. Klinger served in the First World War for one year. He died in 1948 at the age of 59. His wife died February, 1955.

Mae and Fae, the twins, were born April 29, 1899. Mae, deceased, was married to Clarence Klinger and lived on a farm at Schreiner's Hill above Gratz. Fae, the only survivor of this family, lives in the old homestead. She is married to Walter Umholtz, of Gratz. They reared two lovely girls.

They are sisters: Gloria and Evelyn Young, of Williamsport.

Gloria is married to George Sitlinger, of Gratz, and they live in Harrisburg. Evelyn is head nurse at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia, and is single.

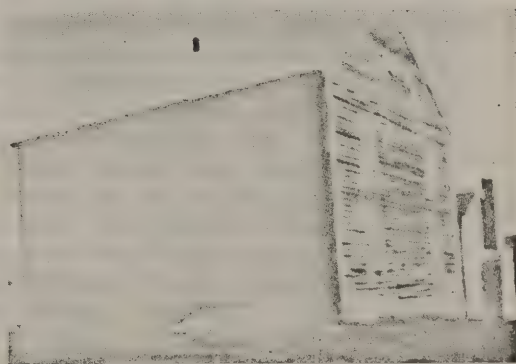
The Klinger Family

The Klinger family originates from the Odenwald (a forest) and carries its name since the time when in the year 1420 family names became permanent. At that time the family names of today were assumed in place of the old Christian names. It has been investigated how the Klinger name originated. In the sayings of the old German language Klinge meant—the little Talbach, which murmurs in the valleys. In the primitive language they say sporadically, "The water sounds loud—it rushes." From these expressions come the names Klingenbrunn, Klingenberg, Klingfurth, Klingenthal, Klingbeek. The closer investigation of the name has however, proven that the family name of Klinger has another origin. The name came into existence when the original father of the family was a sword maker (cutler) and an armourer, who understood the art of forging a Klinge—that is, a good sword. This is also illustrated by the old coat of arms of the Klingers.

The first representatives in this country were Johan Philip Klinger, born July 11, 1723, and his younger brother, Alexander Klinger, born June 23, 1726. They were born in a small village (or near it) called PfoffenBeerfurth in Odenwald, a mountain region in Hesse State between Nekar and Main Rivers, had a population of about 590, in what is now western Germany. They emigrated from Holland, sailed on the ship "Albany", Robert Brown, Master, from Rotterdam, last from Cowes, Isles of Wight, England, and landed at Philadelphia, September 2, 1749, where they took the oath of allegiance to the Colonial Government in Philadelphia on the same day. This was required of all European immigrants at the time of their arrival.

Johan Philip Klinger and his brother settled in Reading where Johan's wife died without issue, (her maiden name unknown). Going back to Germany, he remarried there, and returned to America. According to the records, he arrived at Philadelphia on Sept. 24, 1751, and made his home at Reading, where all his children, four sons and one daughter, were born to the second union. They had their names on the taxable list in 1753.

About 1790 the two brothers moved to what is now Lykens Township, in the neighborhood of the present Klinger's Church. They took up two thousand acres of land which is recorded in the Reading Patent Office. Johan Philip Klinger took up a thousand acres north of Pine Creek and east of Klingerstown Gap, and his brother Alexander took up a thousand acres north of the mountain in the Mahantango Valley.



Philip Klinger's old log house—Edwin Klinger's house is built on old foundation

The wilderness was too rough for Alexander, so he returned to Reading, and left his possessions in the hands of his son, George Adam Klinger, his fifth child, born Sept. 12, 1762, and his daughter, Eve Eliz-

abeth Klinger, married to Gideon Williamson, who also had settled in this vicinity. It is believed that the Klingers first came to this vicinity in the seventies to explore the land, and moved with their families about 1790. They were joiners by trade.

Johan Philip Klinger engaged in developing a farm from the wilderness. He erected his first dwelling or ground cellar a little to the northwest of Klinger's Church at the foot on the north slope of a hill, on the farm now owned by Edwin Klinger, south of where present farm buildings are now standing. Later he erected a small dwelling north of the mountain road and shortly thereafter he erected a large log dwelling south of the road. This dwelling was used for church services and store. It was razed by Edwin Klinger in 1923, and part of the old foundation was used for his present dwelling.

Johan Philip Klinger lived here and farmed the remainder of his life, died Sept. 30, 1811, and was over eighty-eight years old when he died. He is buried at Klinger's Church. He donated the land upon which the first Klinger's Church was built and named in his honor.

The children born to him and his wife Anna, were:—1. Elizabeth Klinger, born March 10, 1756, married J. Conrad Weiser, (son of Frederick Weiser and grandson of Conrad Weiser, the noted Indian interpreter), and both are buried at Klinger's Church. 2. John George Klinger, (known as Geo. Klinger,) was born May 13, 1761, was a farmer, Justice of the Peace and Surveyor for many years, was married (1. to Elizabeth Brosius, from Pine Grove Twp., Berks county, 2, married to Charlotte Snyder); 3. Johannes Philip Klinger, Jr., born Dec. 11, 1785, was a farmer, married Anna Maria Snyder, moved across the Susquehanna River into Snyder county, where they died. Before they moved they lived on the farm now owned by Moses Kessler. 4. Alexander Klinger, born Feb. 17, 1767, married Magdaline Haag, from Reading. 5. Peter Klinger, born Nov. 3, 1773, married Catherine Steinbruch, they were farmers and lived on the farm now owned by Charles Kessler.

George K. Klinger, son of Alexander Klinger (4), my great-grandfather on my father's side, was born in Lykens Twp., March 17, 1795, died Sept. 18, 1866, was a farmer and married Eva ———, born Jan. 20, 1798; died Aug. 26, 1863. Both are buried at Klinger's Church. The following were their children:—1. Catherine Klinger; 2. Absalom Klinger; 3. Harry Klinger, married to Kate Shadle; 4. Angeline Klinger, married to ——— Raver; 5. Peter Klinger; 6. Alexander Klinger, married to Sarah Bixler; 7. Hanna Klinger, married to Nathan Bressler; 9. Louisa Klinger, married 1. to Malick, 2. to Francis Bensinger.

Harry Klinger, (3) my grandfather, was born Feb. 2, 1825; died May 9, 1905, was married to Katie Shadle, born Aug. 23, 1831; died July 17, 1888. He was a farmer and a stone mason for many years. The following were their children; — Cyrus Klinger, who died at age nineteen; Mary Klinger, married to Daniel Kissinger, Jr.; Henry Klinger, married to Emma Wiest; Kate Klinger, not married; Nathan Klinger, married (1. Emma S. Klinger, 2. Salara Miller).

Nathan Klinger, my father, was born Dec. 24, 1871, married to Emma S. Klinger, born Aug. 18, 1874; died Aug. 15, 1897. To this union were born two sons;—Edwin R. Klinger, born Oct. 31, 1894, married to Verdie Mausser, born Oct. 12, 1895, they are farmers, and have one daughter, Mae Klinger, school teacher, married to LeRoy Smeltz, who have two daughters, Joyce and Nancy. George F. Klinger, born Aug. 2, 1897, married Nettie Scheib, born April 30, 1902, a coal miner and in the insurance business. They have two children:—Marie Klinger, married to Gilbert Koppenhaver, who have three children, Gary, Bruce and Jane. Glenn Klinger, married to Gloria Spotts. By his second wife, Salara Miller, Nathan had one son, Allen L. Klinger, electrical appliance dealer, at Millersburg, Pa. Allen L. Klinger is married to Beatrice Trutt. They have three children:—Helen Klinger, married to John Shoultz. They have two children, John and Hollis; Selin Klinger, married to Kathryn Snyder. They have one

child, Michael; Julia Klinger, married to Stanley Snyder, and have one child.

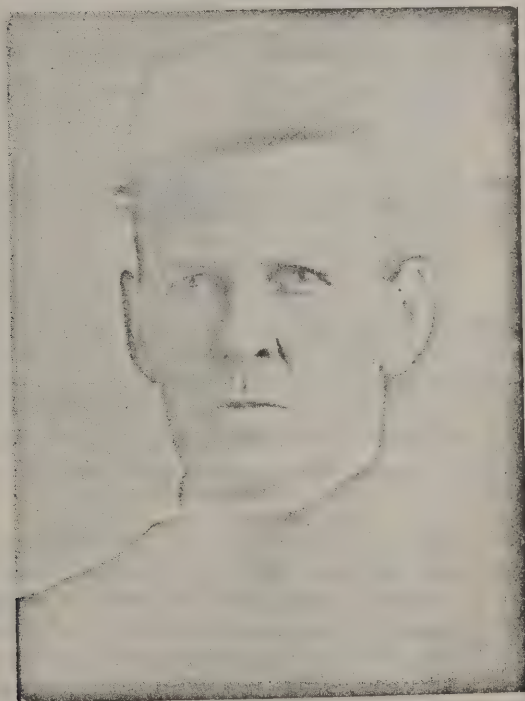
George P. Klinger, son of Peter Klinger (5) great grandfather on my mother's side, born Jan. 7, 1798; died Sept. 16, 1880, married Elizabeth, born Feb. 20, 1805; died Sept. 12, 1885. They were farmers and are buried at Klinger's Church. My grandfather, Moses Klinger, born Dec. 1, 1827; died Aug. 1, 1901, married to Angeline Schoffstall, born July 17, 1831, died May 12, 1880. They were farmers, also operated a grist mill on his farm along Pine Creek, and lived on the farm now owned by

Charles Kessler. The following were their children:—Elmira Klinger, married to Jonathan Williard; 2. Mary Klinger, married to John Straub; 3. Daniel Klinger, married to Amaline Arbogast; 4. George Klinger, married to Julian Koppenhaver; 5. Brady Klinger, married to Lizzie Williard; 6. Catharine Klinger, died young; 7. Emma S. Klinger, married Nathan Klinger; 8. Elizabeth Klinger; 9. Anna Cebilla Klinger.

—George F. Klinger

Note: The writer acknowledges his indebtedness for help from William Klinger of Erdman and to Prof. Earl Klinger of Purdue University.

The Ancestors and Descendants of Carolina (Klinger) Miller



Carolina Klinger Miller

John Philip Klinger, one of the two progenitors of the Klingers in the Lykens Valley was born in Poffenberfort, Germany, July 11, 1723, died in Lykens Township September 30, 1811, aged 88 years. It is supposed that he married in Germany and soon after came to America. He was a farmer, and first settled at Reading, Pa., where his wife died. He returned to Germany and

married again, then removed to Lykens Township, Dauphin County, and engaged in developing a farm from the wilderness near the Klinger's Church.

John Philip had four sons and a daughter, John Philip, George, Alexander and Peter, Eva, married to Conrad Weiser, grandson of the great statesman. George Klinger, the grandfather of William, was born in Lykens Township, May 13, 1761, and there passed his youth. After his marriage he removed to Lower Mahantango Township, Schuylkill County. He was justice of the peace and surveyor for many years, and died on April 24, 1840, aged 78 years. He was buried at the Klinger's Church, no grave marker.

George Klinger, named John George, father of William, was born in what was Lower Mahantango but is now Hubley Township, Schuylkill County, September 16, 1787. He spent his life in his native township. He married Catherine Schmeltz. Their children were: Andrew, died at Mt. Carmel, Pa., was a farmer, married and had a family; Elizabeth, married Daniel S. Kissinger; both died in Lykens Township. William Elias, married Sallie Kissinger; both died in Lykens Township. Daniel married Caroline Shadle, and they resided at Seven Points, Northumberland County, Pa. Mary married twice and resided in Tower City. Magdalena, died at Seven Points, wife of Samuel Klinger. Samuel died in 1838. His

widow was again married to George Welker. She died in 1872.

William Klinger was born in Hubley Township April 19, 1820, and grew up on the farm on which he was born. When a young man he learned the mason's trade, which he often afterwards practiced in addition to farming. He helped to lay the foundation of many homes in Gratz. He died on December 17, 1872, and is buried at Klinger's Church. He married Rebecca Schoffstall,



Mr. and Mrs. William Klinger and daughter Catherine

who survived him, and resided in Gratz. She was born February 25, 1825, and was the daughter of John and Magdalena (Hoover) Schoffstall. Their children were: George S., born in Hubley Township in 1845, died in Gratz in 1906; Maria, Mrs. Jacob M. Wiest, born October 3, 1846. Lived in Lykens Township; Carolina, Mrs. Emanuel Miller, born in Hubley Township May 16, 1848, married in 1865, and resided in Lykens Township, north of Gratz at Mahantango Mountain. Emanuel Miller died on the homestead, in 1906. After a few years, their son Alfred took over the farm, and Carolina then removed to Gratz, where she died in 1934. Elizabeth died at the age of 12. Daniel S., born in 1851. He was married to

Lizzie Erdman. Partner in business in Gratz with his brother George S. May Jane died at the age of one year. William, a mason, born 1864; Tobias, huckster, stage and mail driver, justice of the peace, organizer and first president of the First National Bank at Gratz, Pa. Born April 14, 1857. Louisa, born in 1860, was married to Benneville R. Troutman, lived in Lykens Township, east of Gratz; John S., stone mason, was born in 1861. Catherine, Mrs. Jacob Williard, resided at Gratz in 1896; and Levi, born in 1867. The children were all born and raised on the homestead in Hubley Township, Schuylkill County.

The children of Emanuel and Carolina (Klinger) Miller are: Ida L., born 1866 and died in 1915, married to Frank Leitzel, Hebe, Pa. He was killed at an early date in an accident on the railroad at Shamokin, Pa. They had two children born to this marriage, Morris D., manager of Reading Ice & Cold Storage Co., Reading, Pa.; Tarsa I, married to William Laux, Tremont, Pa.; Catherine C. (1869-1951), wife of Luther E. Koppenhaver, a farmer in Lykens Township, and many years a road huckster to the coal mining towns. They had one daughter Iva, Mrs. Irvin Wentzel, Halifax, Pa.; Joanna Agnes (1867-1947), who was never married, resided in Gratz after she left home; Rebecca Jane (1873-1935), who was never married, lived in Reading, Pa., for 20 years of her early life, nursing and caring for wealthy families of that city. She spent her later life at Gratz. Lydia A. (1875-1943), married to Irvin Buffington, a farmer southwest of Gratz, until 1916, when he moved to Gratz to his mother. He was the second President of the First National Bank, also served as Assistant Cashier from 1917 to 1934. He died in 1946. Their children are Stanley A., at Harrisburg, Pa., and Hannah C., wife of Clayton J. Umholtz, D.D.S., Elizabethtown, Pa.

Curtis A. (1883-1935). He attended the schools of Lykens Township. He was a graduate of Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pennsylvania, and Mount Airy Seminary, Philadelphia, served his first charge at Washingtonville, Pa., second charge at South Perkasio Lutheran Church, and third at St.

Peter's Lutheran Church at Allentown, at which place he died. He was married to Hannah Hepler, a native of Gratz. Two children were born to this union. Curtis A., Junior, graduate of Pennsylvania State University, now living at Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, R. D. 1, employed as a purchasing

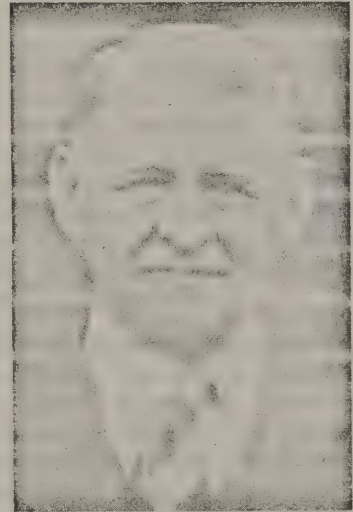


Rev. Curtis A. Miller

agent for Swift and Company, Harrisburg. Lucille M., wife of Dr. Woodrow Savacool, Germantown, Pa., private practice, and member of the staff of Jefferson Hospital, Philadelphia. Alfred J. (1885-1939), a farmer on the old Miller homestead, married to Tessie V. Kissinger. They lived north of Gratz. Their children are: Matilda, Mr. Marlin Bordner, E'ville, Pa.; Mary, Mrs. Herbert Troxell, Harrisburg, and Anna Rebecca, Mrs. Kenneth Lebo, of Gratz, R. D.

Harvey E., born 1871 and died in 1944. When he was not needed on the farm he began to work for his uncles, George S. and Daniel S. Klinger. Harvey E. came to town in 1894, and worked for them as the road huckster and teamster for their freight. In 1903, Harvey E. and Daniel E. purchased the Mercantile business of Daniel S. and George S., their uncles, and in 1906, when George S. died they bought the property. They lost the barn and the shed in the 1924 fire and rebuilt them. It was in 1903 that the sisters Meta C. and Joanna A. came to town and joined them in the partnership of

the store. They served the community for 47 years until August 1950, when George F. and Clare E. Searer became successors to the Miller partnership. Harvey E. served as Director of the First National Bank at Gratz, for seven years, was a director of the Wiconisco Telephone Company, school director for many years, and also president of the Gratz Agricultural and Horticultural Association from 1925-1942, when he resigned on account of ill health. He was never married. Daniel E. worked in the store, and had a road huckster route to



Harvey E. Miller

Minersville. This trip he made once a week, with horses and spring wagon. He also hauled their merchandise from E'ville to Gratz. He was born 1877 and died 1952.

Meta C., born 1880 is now retired and lives in Gratz. She was never married; Salome M. is married to Ray H. Snyder. Soon after their marriage they moved to town and purchased the property next to the store. She also helped in the store business. Mr. Snyder served as the Third Cashier of the First National Bank at Gratz. He is presently working for Butcher and Sherrerd, Philadelphia, Penna., an Investment Banking Firm, since 1942. From 1934 he worked for P. M. Chandler, and later for Burr Company until 1942, when the Burr Company was absorbed by Butcher & Sherrerd.

Ray organized the Community Library in 1919, and also the Gratz Water Supply Company 1924-1925 at a cost of about \$35,000. He also established the Community Playground Association. Thus five of the children of Carolina (Klinger) Miller spent the greater part of their lives in the town of Gratz.

Phillip Klinger was the first patentee of land in the Erdman district. He had the following warrants for lands granted to him: "Union," 300 acres War. 1785, east and

north of the Pine Creek; "Springfield" 317 acres War. 1771; about north of Mountain Road 324 acres War. 1786; and several other plots. No. 38, War. 1793; No. 44, 17 acres; and one east of "Union," 94 acres War. 1771. He was the largest Patentee of Land in Lykens Township. Peter, his son, had warrants for land west of the Pine Creek and Klingerstown Gap, 135 acres War. 1815; part of Erdman east of Pine Creek, 60 acres War. 1814.

The Moyer Family

Beulah E. and Florence C. Moyer were born in Gratz in 1890 and 1892, respectively. They are the daughters of D. George and Jennie (Artz) Moyer. Their great-grandfather, George Moyer, was born in Germany in 1801, and learned there the trade of blacksmith. In 1821, a young man of twenty, he decided to leave for the New World. He came to the United States in a sailing vessel and landed at Baltimore. He came to Gratz, where he purchased a shop and began blacksmithing, which occupation he continued all his life at Gratz. His shop was located above Chestnut Street on the south side in 1862. (See map). A Tallman family lived in the Borough of Gratz as shown by the map. He married Miss Margaret Tallman, a daughter of theirs. She was also a native of Germany, and he probably learned of them on the way to America. Their children were Mary, George D., Charles H., Amanda, all of whom were deceased before 1896; also Louisa, John and Caroline. He bought a large tract where the Fair Ground is located, and lived, and retired there with his son John. He died in 1876. His wife had preceded him in death in 1864. They were members of the Lutheran Church, as all the Moyers in this clan are of the same faith. George was a Democrat.

The remaining son of this family, John, the grandfather of Beulah E. and Florence C., was born at Gratz and received his education there. After completing the Gratz schools, he learned the furniture manufacturing business at Harrisburg, where he

worked for six years. He was then needed at home and came to Gratz and farmed the homestead. He was married in 1861, to Miss Sarah Gonser, born in Northumberland County, January 4, 1841, daughter of Daniel Gonser. Old George did some blacksmith work for Mr. Gonser, and John delivered the goods and in this way had become acquainted with his future wife.

The parents of Beulah related this true story: Daniel Gonser lived in the Schwoven Creek Valley above Greenbrier, where he had a large farm and built on it a two and one-half story brick house and a large barn. He had accumulated quite a large sum of money in his day. There were no banks to deposit the money so the large silver pieces were put in crocks for safe keeping, and the small change was used for living purposes. John and Sarah came home one day and told them about their plans for a new house in Gratz. Then Daniel went and brought the crock and said to Sarah, "Nau haip mul der schatch," and he poured the money into her apron, and said "Now, Sarah build the house the way you want it," and she did. It is a large two and one-half story frame building still standing on the northwest corner of Market and East Streets, the upper end of town at the Fair Ground. It is now the Rothermel Cafe. John was interested in the Fair and gave them additional ground to enlarge the Fair Ground.

Mr. Moyer was a Democrat and served as a member of the Gratz Council, as Chief Burgess, as School Director, and also as tax

collector. He was a member of Lodge No. 565, I. O. O. F.; Grange No. 530, and Washington Camp No. 575, P. O. S. of A. He belonged to the Lutheran Church, in which he held the office of deacon, besides being Sunday School Superintendent. Their children were: Charles P., Daniel G., William O., and Sarah S., known as "Sadie" in Gratz.

Charles P. was the oldest son of John and Sarah (Gonser) Moyer. He was born in Gratz and received his education in the schools of Gratz, and helped to farm the homestead. He was a faithful and devout man, and gave his service to the Church and Sunday School at Gratz. We have no record that he held office.

When he became of age, he was married to Catherine Williard, daughter of Jonathan Williard near Gratz. They spent all their life in the valley at Gratz and Erdman. After their marriage they resided at Erdman a few years and were in the creamery business there. From there they moved back to the homestead at Gratz, and, after his father's death, purchased the farm. He resided there and continued in farming and stockraising until his death. This family had two sons, Luther and Guy. Luther Moyer was born at Gratz, and received his education there. He is married and resides at Lebanon. Guy also was born in Gratz and received his education there. He is married and resides at Steelton. They are blessed with three children, Richard, Darrye, and Linda.

Daniel G., known as George, the father of Beulah and Florence, was born at Gratz on July 27, 1864, and attended the schools there and worked on his father's farm till he was of age. He married Jennie C. Artz, a native of Gratz, on December 25, 1888. He worked at Hartman's tannery for four years, then moved on a farm one mile east of Gratz, where he farmed for two years; and in 1895, he removed to Greenbrier, Northumberland County. His father John had purchased Sarah's homestead after her father's death. This farm George took over, and later purchased it from his father. It consists of 134 acres. Here he was engaged in farming and stockraising until he retired in 1933 and moved to Herndon. There he spent

the last years of his life until his death, September 21, 1940, living over three score and ten years. Their children are: John G., Beulah E., Florence C., Harry D., and Sarah M.

John G. was born in Gratz August 8, 1889. During his first year in school he removed with his parents out of the valley. He married Inez Wedde. Since he was eighteen years old, he has been employed by the Reading Railroad Company. After their marriage they removed to Gordon, Penna. Their children are: Sarah and George. Sarah is married and has one daughter. George is also married, and has one daughter.

Beulah E. Moyer was born at Gratz, December 29, 1890. She removed with her parents out of the Lykens Valley when she was five years old. She married H. Lee Schreffler, a native of the Schwoven Creek Valley. He is the sixth generation of the Henry Schreffler who came to America in 1737 and later settled in that valley. He is a carpenter by trade and works for the Penn Construction Company at Harrisburg, who receive large contracts to build new consolidated schools. She learned the art of a seamstress, and is now retired from that business. They live at Hunter Station on Route 225. Their children are Mark, born October 25, 1921, and died April 28, 1929, at the age of seven. Death resulted soon from an after effect of the measles. June J., born June 22, 1932, was married to Kermit Lahr, October 23, 1954, and they reside at Dalmatta, Pa.

Florence C. Moyer was born at Gratz, June 24, 1892, received her education in Schwoven Creek Valley, and is married to James A. Ulrich. They live at Harrisburg. She loves this spot of Gratz and the valley. They have no children.

Harry D. Moyer was born at the homestead at Greenbrier. He was engaged in farming all his life, and was married to Emma J. Snyder. She died on November 24, 1954. Their children are: John, Eva, Edna, Mary, Jennie, Ethel, and Lorraine.

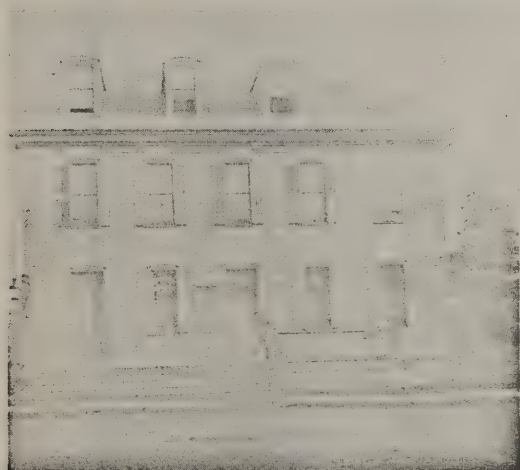
John Moyer resided at home, and after he was married to May Snyder, he bought his grandfather's farm, where he resides

and is engaged in farming and stockraising. They have three sons, Daniel L., Carl, and John L. Eva is married to Adam Paul and they have two sons, Dean and Dennis; Mary is married to Donald Howerter, and resides at Klingerstown, R. D. They have one son,

William H. Jennie is married to Elwood Casy, and resides at Dornsife. They have no children. Ethel is married to Reverend Paul Billow, a Lutheran preacher. They reside at Urban, Pa. Edna and Lorraine reside at home with their father.

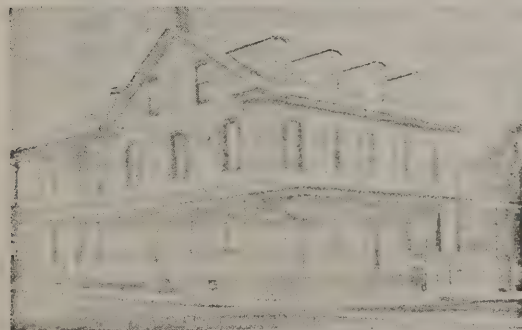
The Rogers Family

W. O. Rogers bought the Hotel at Gratz, the only one in town, from Israel Daniel, January 1, 1908. The day they moved to town from Valley View, was the day his daughter, Martha, was born. His son, Leo,



The Union House before Rogers put roof over porch and sidewalk

was eight years old. The mother was Annie Laux Rogers. On that day Leo hitched up his two goats, which he had trained, to the wagon, and with his belongings came to Gratz. That was something new for the



The Union House after roof was put over sidewalk

town, the first goat team to enter. Those were also the horse and buggy days. The Hotel Keeper hired a hostler to take care of the teams that came to town. During the fair week it took six men to take care of the horses. They also hired 16 to 20 maids to prepare the meals and take care of the rooms for the boarders, a great week for Gratztown. Leo attended the schools at Gratz during his spare time. He used to train goats that Monroe Klinger used to buy in the coal region and bring them to Gratz on his return from his road huckster route.

Leo made Gratz his home. During the early 20th Century he also trained St. Bernard dogs. They had two large dogs named Duke and Max. Their job was to turn the

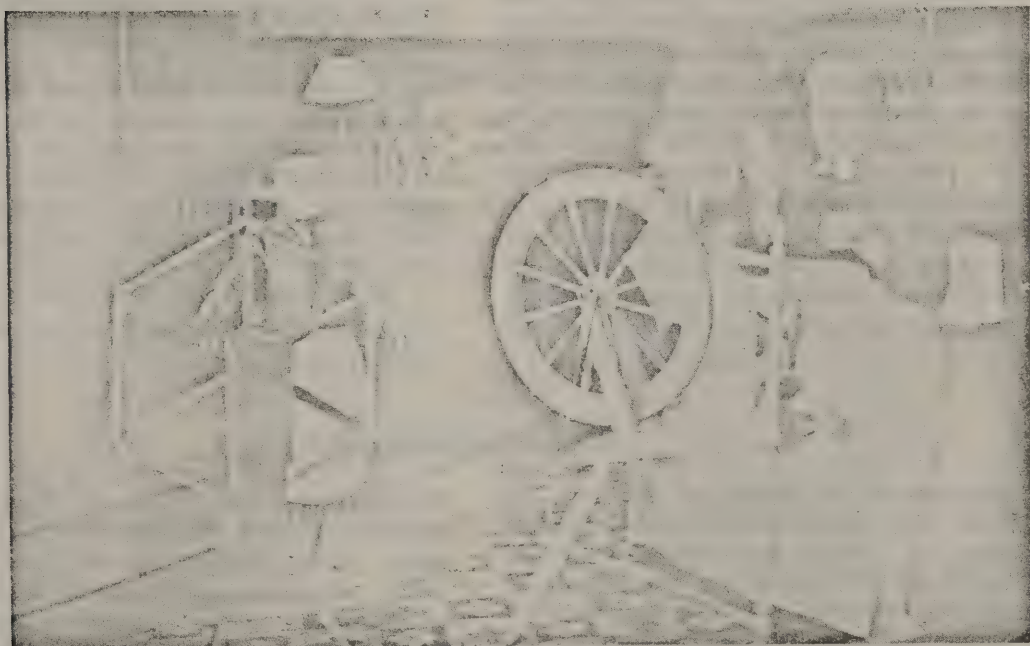


Elsie Sitlinger and Alma Klinger with Leo's big St. Bernard dogs

treadpower which ran the washer for Elsie Sitlinger, Alma Klinger, and Annie Clark, the maids. As the dogs never failed, farmers had these dogs to turn the treadpower to churn the butter and run the separator twice a day. Later came the gasoline engine and the dogs and the treadpower went out of business. There are two of these large dogs in the Valley. To see them you drive along the Mountain Road west of

Pillow Gap, and you can see what power they can make. Leo works at Harrisburg, and for the past 25 years he was the town vendor or auctioneer. He appears regularly at the Gratz Auction. So if you have anything to sell, call Leo, he'll sell it for you. He is married to Mae Hess. Their children are Romaine Maurer at Williamsport, and Bruce at Middletown Body and Fender Shop. Both graduated at Gratz High School.

W. O. Rogers was engaged in civic clubs of Gratz, and was a promoter for the town water system. He remained in town in the hotel business until his death in 1920. The heirs sold the hotel to Samuel Reed. After a number of years he sold it to George Adams, who in turn sold it to Kerstetter, the owner when the big fire started in 1924 and it was leveled to the ground. Mrs. Rogers removed with her daughter to Lykens where she remained until her death.



Grandma Kobel spinning, ably assisted by Martha Rogers

Romberger Family

Amy Agnes Romberger was born September 5, 1882, a daughter of Howard H. and Catherine Romberger. Her father, Howard H., preacher and merchant, was born July 12, 1852, on the old homestead in Lykens Township. He is a son of Daniel and Hannah (Bergstresser) Romberger. Howard H. received his education in the public schools and the Berrysburg Seminary. After assisting on his father's farm for a time, he began farming for himself. Later he spent four years in preparation for the ministry, and began active work in 1881. He was connected with the Evangelical

Church and continued preaching for nine years, during which time he served various places in Lancaster, Schuylkill, Lebanon and Monroe Counties. In 1890 he retired from the pulpit and moved to Gratz, where he engaged in business. He also baptized many of the young boys and girls in Gratz and the Valley. He was also Superintendent of the Evangelical Sunday School at Gratz for several years. Mr. Romberger was married in 1873 in Berrysburg to Catharine Ritzman, daughter of Michael and Elizabeth Ritzman, sister of Aaron Ritzman, the Justice of the Peace and Notary Public of

Gratz until his death. Their children are Darwin Ambrose and Amy Agnes.

Darwin A. was born in 1874, was a graduate of Schuylkill Seminary, Fredericksburg, in 1892. (This school was later moved to Myerstown and finally to Reading where it is now Albright College). He was principal of the schools in Gratz in 1896. He was married to Bessie Seebold, daughter of George Washington and Charlotte (Moyer) Seebold of Gratz. They had one son, Ralph, who is first engineer for the Farrell Steamship Lines and runs from New York to South Africa. He has been with the Farrell Lines since 1942, and saw action in the Atlantic and Pacific areas. His ship was torpedoed and disabled in the Atlantic about 800 miles from Trinidad. He is married to Lucille Greevs. They have one son, John Darwin. A daughter, Charlotte, died at the age of one. John is married and has a small son, Michael Ralph.

Amy Agnes married Harry Albright, a machinist from Reading. Their children

are Kathryn, George, Henry and Joseph, and an infant, deceased. (1) Henry died in 1951 and left a wife, Clara Elizabeth (Smith) Albright, and two children, Henry Romberger and Marjorie. (2) George is a graduate of Washington, D.C., Eastern High School, and is married to Edith Elizabeth Schultz, of Shamokin. They have one daughter, Sue Ellen. George works for Ford Instrument Company, Long Island City, N.Y. (3) Kathryn, graduate of Sunbury High School and Chicago Hospital, is married to Herman Johannsen. They have two children, Ruth and Peter, and live in Elmont, Long Island. (4) Joseph, graduate of Sunbury High School, is manager of a Weis Supermarket in Berwick, Pa. He is married to Georgia Elizabeth Shortess, who is the owner of the Georgia Beauty Shop. By a former marriage to Edna Elizabeth Hunsinger, deceased, Joseph has two sons, David and Bruce. All the sons' wives, "Believe It Or Not," even Joe's first wife, had the name Elizabeth.

The Schminky Family

John F. M., farmer and dairyman, was born in Gratz Borough, Dauphin County, April 15, 1872. He is the son of Dr. Isaiah S. and Elizabeth (Wiest) Schminky. The great-grandfather, a native of Germany, located in Lancaster County, and engaged in hotel keeping. His wife was Susanna Acre, and they had a large family. The grandfather was named John, born in Hinkletown, and was engaged in farming when a boy. He then studied medicine and practiced in Millersburg and various other places. His death occurred in 1855. His wife died subsequently, aged 71 years. Their children were: Emma, Isaiah S., Henry, Elizabeth, Aaron and Susan. The father Isaiah, M.D., was born in Lancaster County. He went to Schuylkill County, Mahantango Valley, where his father practiced medicine and spent the latter part of his life.

In 1850, Isaiah began to read medicine with his father, and in 1851 read one year with Dr. Masters, Hinkletown, Pennsylvania.

In 1852, he entered the Pennsylvania Medical College of Philadelphia from which institution he graduated in 1854. He began to practice his profession with his father for one year while in Schuylkill County. Dr. Schminky treated a hysterical patient with chloroform, which had just then come into use; by this action he created a stir among the people to whom that anesthetic was unknown. He left Schuylkill County in 1856 and located at Gratz, when the Gratz Borough was only four years old, where he practiced over forty years. He was a Republican. He was a member of the State Legislature for two years, 1871-1872, and he sat in the borough council for thirty years. He was married in 1859 to Miss Elizabeth Wiest, daughter of Jacob Wiest. Dr. Isaiah died in 1900. Their children are: Gurney M., deceased; Allen Beecher, deceased, druggist in Philadelphia; Harry Newton, deceased, merchant, Woodbury, New Jersey; John F. M., farmer of Gratz; and Bertha M. Schminky, still living in Gratz.

John Finley Moore Schminky spent all his life in Gratz except when he was married the first few years, they moved to Steelton, Pennsylvania, where he worked at the Pennsylvania Steel Company, labored at 11 cents an hour. About the second year they were there the big steel strike came on. Most of the workers lived in Company houses and had credit at the company store, where they purchased their living supplies. When the strike came the store was closed and the people were starving. The Steel Workers Union promised to take care of the families; but their excuse was that the strike was illegal, so received no help from them. In 1892, they moved to Gratz and started farming Dr. Schminky's Gratz farm. For twenty years they were in the dairy business. During that time the milk was brought to town with the horse and buggy in large milk cans, and tapped out by the quart, as much as the customers wanted, at 5 cents a quart. As times progressed, they later had a one-horse milk wagon. Later the bottled milk came into business and Mr. John quit the dairy business. Then for a number of years he was in the hog business. He raised about 200 hogs a year, till he moved to town and his son, Joe, took over.

John F. M. is married to Carrie Maurer, the daughter of Henry Maurer, who was in the Civil War. He was the last of the G.A.R.'s of Dauphin County District and died at the ripe old age of 101 years in 1948. Their children are: (1) Roy, married to Mabel Jones, two children; Robert Roy, of Willoughby, Ohio, and Mrs. Blair Artz, of Hegins, Pennsylvania; (2) Blair Maurer, married to Edna Kissinger, two children, James, of Washington, D.C., and Mrs. Benjamin Fingers, of Steelton, Pennsylvania; (3) Isaiah Austin, of Mentor-on-the-Lake, in Ohio, married to Naomi Fogarty, three children, George, Jeanie, at home, and Ruth, married and lives in Plainfield, Ohio. She has two children. (4) Gordon Allen, resides in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, married Mary Saltzer, deceased, of Lykens, they have issue

Herbert and Joan McCormich, at Philadelphia, Chas., in California; (5) Harry Dewey married Dora Troutman, two children, Margaret Ann at home; Nancy, Mrs. Daniel Jay LeVan, San Antonio, Texas; (6) Ralph Lee, married Flora Artz, two children, Joan and Janet both at home, live in Hollywood, Florida; (7) Carrie Lottie married to Lewis Hepler, Gratz, six children (see Hepler Family); (8) Margaret Evelyn married to Harold Brosius, one daughter Maxine, Selinsgrove; (9) Joseph Nevin, married Dot Smith, four children, Carol, Mrs. Carl Klinger, Klingers-town, Bonita, Mrs. Robert Wintersteen, Gratz, John and Joy at home; (10) Elsie Elisabeth, married to George Felsburg, Minersville, deceased, one daughter, Sharon, at Gratz.

The Schminkys are active members of the Evangelical Church. John was secretary of trustees about 50 years, ever since he was a small boy, he had a regular attendance and taught Sunday School for over 50 years, also Superintendent for many years. He attended the schools at Gratz, and seven weeks at Summer School. He was examined under County Superintendent R. M. McNeil and received a certificate to teach school. He could have taught at Loy-alton, but did not take the school on account of its being too far from home, so he did not teach.

In politics he was a Prohibitionist, served on the School Board as Secretary, assessor, Secretary of the council for many years.

He was the local field contact man for the Soil Conservation in Williams, Wiconisco, and Lykens Township territory for about twenty years. He was an active member of the Gratz Grange where he held the post as Master for many years.

John F. M. is an upright, kindhearted, clean individual of Gratz town. In July they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. May the Lord extend his blessing upon them.

The Shiro Family

Harry Shiro, farmer and butcher of Gratz Borough, was born in Gratz Borough April 5, 1905. He is the son of Jacob B. Shiro and Ida (Laudenslager) Shiro. His great-grandfather Jacob Shiro, was born in France, and was a soldier in the French Army, with which he crossed into Germany during one of the wars of religions. At the close of the war he married and settled in Wittenberg, where he conducted a public tavern until his death, which occurred about 1844. His children were: Mina, Mrs. James Blacker, of Harrisburg, and Jacob. His widow married Henry Snyder; she died in 1893. Mr. Snyder survived her and resided in Lykens township, where he and his wife died. The children of her second marriage are: Angeline, Mrs. Daniel Reichert, Williamstown, Pennsylvania; Rose, first married Adam Frederick, deceased, and later became Mrs. Samuel Buick; Henry, farmer, Gratz; Amanda, Mrs. John Coleman, Gratz; and John, farmer, Lykens Township.

Jacob Shiro, Harry's grandfather, was about one year old when his father died. At the age of six he began to attend school at Wittenberg, and was at school three years. In the spring of 1852, with his mother, stepfather and the other members of his family, he emigrated to America. They embarked at LeHavre, France, in a sailing vessel, and after a rough voyage of twenty-nine days, during which they were in the peril of large icebergs, they landed in New York and came directly to Wiconisco, where they decided to make their home and where the stepfather, Henry Snyder, at once found employment in the mines. Young Jacob attended the English schools in Wiconisco for four terms, and this completed his school education.

At the age of thirteen years, he began work in the mines, picking slate at \$8 per month, and was employed in the mines for over twenty years.

Mr. Shiro enlisted March 10, 1864, at Harrisburg in Company C, 103rd Pennsylvania Volunteers, under Captain C. A. Harper. The regiment was ordered to Roanoke

Island by way of Fortress Monroe and Norfolk, Virginia, where they were assigned guard duty for six or eight months. They were then ordered to New Bern, North Carolina, to guard the Weldon Railroad. While they were here, a malignant fever broke out among the soldiers, from which as many as a hundred died per day. Mr. Shiro was attacked by the disease, but his sound constitution and his indomitable spirit enabled him to resist the fatal effects of the contagion. He wasn't going to give up so soon. Although very ill, he continued on duty, and proceeded on the march. He and other comrades hired an old colored man with a cart to carry their knapsacks and equipment, but the rickety vehicle proved inadequate to the strain, and their baggage was dumped on the road. Mr. Shiro determined to push on at all hazards, and resuming his burdens, he continued the march. One of his comrades fell by the wayside and died. Much dispirited and worn in body, they finally reached New Bern, where they rested a short time, and they pushed on to Morehead City, and boarded the steamer for Baltimore, where they arrived July 4, 1865. They reached Harrisburg July 7, and on that date were still suffering from the effects of the fever, and he remained in Harrisburg two weeks before he was sufficiently recovered to go home.

During this time his physician at times despaired of his recovery. But he was finally restored to health, and retired to his home. He soon resumed work in the mines, where for four years he held the position of mine foreman.

In 1867, having accumulated \$2,000, Mr. Shiro removed with his family to Freeport, Illinois, and from that place to Coles County, Illinois. There he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, intending to try the life of farming. As there was an unexpired lease on the farm, he could not obtain possession until autumn; he therefore rented the adjoining place for the season. He would have continued to live there but for the loss of his wife, whose death occurred

in 1870. This made him homesick, and he returned to his home in Pennsylvania in the fall of that year. He located on a farm in Gratz Borough and in 1872 sold his Illinois farm for \$6,000. In 1886, Mr. Shiro opened a general store in Gratz. After the Klinger Brothers moved to their new store, Mr. Shiro located in the Odd Fellows Hall. There he successfully conducted a store till he retired from the business, and Abe Gross took over his general merchandise business. Mr. Shiro then operated the North Side Colliery on Short Mountain, known as Shiro's Mine. Some of the remains can still be seen. Even the rock and dirt bank has been screened for the remaining coal. In the early 20th century the farmers used to visit the place every year before the oats harvest to spend the day in search of the good old mountain huckleberries, to treat themselves in the cold winters to a good huckleberry pie.

Jacob was married three times. In 1862 he married Amanda Moyer. They had two children: Annie, Mrs. John Schreiner, who resided in Illinois; and Carrie, Mrs. Schild, who resided in Pueblo, Colorado, and later in Gratz. Mrs. Amanda Shiro died in 1870.

In his second marriage in 1872, he was united with Miss Lizzie Deibler, by whom he had one daughter, Lizzie, wife of Morris Schreffler, Mifflin Township, Dauphin County, later a retired farmer in Berrysburg. Mrs. Lizzie Shiro died in 1875. Mr. Shiro later married Mary, daughter of Benjamin Gise, of Gratz. They had one child, Jacob B.

Jacob was a strong Democrat. He served as postmaster of Gratz for several years, having been first appointed under President Garfield. The Gratz mail in that day was not large, and so was laid out on the counter. Later, as the mail increased, the mail box came into use. He was a member of Lodge No. 563, I.O.O.F. at Gratz, and the G.A.R. Encampment at Gratz; also of Lykens Valley Lodge, No. 365, K. of P. at Gratz. He was a member of the Evangelical Church.

Jacob B. Shiro, father of Harry, was born in Gratz, August 6, 1876, a lifelong resident of the Borough. He attended school under Henry Dornheim and others. At the age of 14 he started at his father's mine on the north side of Short Mountain, as a foreman. When he was 27 he took over his father's farm in the Borough, south of town, where his son, Harry, is now farming. In the fall of 1941, he built a home and barn near West Street on the Specktown Road on a part of the farm, and some land bought from Daniel Good. He retired on the 19 acre plot while Harry took over the homestead.

Jacob B. was married to Anna Wagner in 1900. They had one boy, who died at the age of six months. Then his wife also died. He was married a second time to Ida E. Laudenslager, a daughter of Daniel Laudenslager, in 1903. Their children are: (1) Mary Lillie, Mrs. Stanford Shade, one child, Annie (Mrs. Marlin Schwartz, they have one child, Kerry); (2) Annie, Mrs. C. Edgar Hain, contractor at Elizabethtown. (Their children are: Clair, Elaine, Kenneth, Charles). (3) Eddie, who was killed in an auto and truck accident in 1939. (4) Carrie, single, at home, takes care of her parents. Jacob B. and the family belong to the Simon's Evangelical Congregational Church at Gratz. He served as teacher, treasurer, trustee all his life.

Harry Shiro, the only living son, a farmer and custom butcher, attended the schools at Gratz, and took to farming quite young. He married Martha Shroyer. They have four children: (1) Elsie, Mrs. Robert Moyer, whose children are Martha Jane, Barbara, and Ruby; (2) Allen; (3) Harry, Jr.; and (4) Mary, at home. His wife died from the effects of a fire accident at home. Harry is married a second time to Verna Heim, of Mahantango Valley. They have no children. Harry is superintendent of the Evangelical Sunday School.

Mr. Harry Smith

Mr. Smith was born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He first came to Gratz in the year 1898 as a public exhibitor. In 1899 he returned to Gratz and settled in the borough permanently, opening and conducting



Harry Smith
Courtesy — Valley Citizen

a gymnasium, and engaging in amusement productions throughout the state. He was a great enthusiast for training dogs, cats, goats, and local talent, and was very successful along this line for many years. He first operated in a shop at the corner of the alley across from the new factory. He had it lined to make it comfortable and built a room under the rafters, where they lived.

Mr. Smith had a show that traveled over the state, beginning in the spring and ending in the fall. The last show was always given at Gratz, where he had his winter quarters. He had good talent in his day; such as Irvin Bland, wife and daughters, Aikin, tight wire walker, and Chief Running Elk, an Indian chief with long black hair that reached to his waist. One of his stunts was to swing two of the heaviest men in town while they were hanging onto his hair. The two heaviest men he swung like nothing. At Gratz these were Charles Shadle and Aaron Rabuck. He had many more acrobats for his show. The show was located in a field at North Spruce Street.

During the winter he had his show in the shop mentioned, where he trained local talent to do the performance: dancing, box-

ing, trapeze, clowns, etc. Milton Umholtz, Guy Klinger, were the dancers; later Claude Buffington. Charles Tobias, Harper Umholtz, Dan Saltzer, Joe Coehen, Tip Strayer, John McNoldy, etc., were the prize fighters. Fred Coleman and Art Blyler were the acrobats. Homer Blyler and Charles Tobias were the clowns. They had one stunt that would make some women faint. One of the clowns would throw a hatchet in the back of the other, and it would stick in his back. (You figure that one out.) He had variety in his show. A few reels of movies, then boxers and dancers, then another reel and the trapeze, the rings, etc. Admittance was 5c. They called it the Nickelodeon. Here is also where he showed the tricks of trained cats, dogs, monkeys, and goats, which he trained during the winter for the big show in the summer.

The big feature in his show was Mr. Smith and his wife in a boxing bout. He would drag out a box and say, "Here comes Lena O'Rosie Mollie, the greatest boxer on earth." Then he would start to pick out some rags from the box for some time and finally he'd pull up Mollie, his wife. Then the bout was on. She sure knew how to handle the gloves and Schmitty was the one who had to take the punches. She always won with a knockout.

Every year his show was in existence, they went as far west as the western part of the state and Hagerstown, Maryland, on their summer tour. Then the greater circus came along, like the Barnum & Bailey shows, and he quit the circus business. He bought the shop that was formerly the Henry Kreiser blacksmith shop. He converted it into a restaurant. To this he built a two and one half story living house, and in back of that a large hall, forty by seventy-five feet. Here is where the winter shows were kept for some time, till the talkie movie came along. Here is where all the large community meetings were held; as grange, farmers institutes, plays, movies, etc. His was the pioneer motion picture exhibition in the entire valley.

Besides his other business, he was the patentee of several national amusement contrivances, as well as the manufacturer. He shipped "The Smith Jazz Swing" as far as Australia and Canada. He was an unique and keenly interested citizen of the borough and well respected throughout the community.

The home talent plays held in this hall, played by Gratz amateurs, were of the best found this side of Harrisburg. The last great plays were "Hezekiah's Picnic" and "Hezekiah's Country Store," both written and produced by Charles W. Bahn. They could not be surpassed by any groups of amateurs from the valleys between Sunbury and Harrisburg. They were repeated several times to take care of the overflow crowds. Many of the players are still living. Later they had the "Dixie Minstrels" and "Silas Schmidge from Turnip Ridge," and "Susan Dribb," etc.

The Jazz Swing was made in Gratz during the winter time. It was in the style of the Merry-go-round. It had large iron rods extending from the center pole, about twelve in the circle, with seats for two attached to each set of iron rods. This machine was motor-driven and as the speed increased the riders would swing out until it made a diameter of about 36 feet, a thrill of a ride at that time. This was sold as far as South America.

He also invented the first movable shooting gallery. It was made of sturdy 2x4, with a sturdy steel background. On this they placed racks with steel dolls, for which two boys had to fit dresses. Ralph Witmer, Harry Troxell, Billy Clark practiced their carpentry work on them. They were packed in large boxes and shipped out. Ralph still gets a good laugh at how he dressed the metal dolls. This advertisement was on his show billboard as he traveled through the state. Valued at \$500 and made in Gratz.

Another invention that he showed at carnivals, fairs and large gatherings was "The Clock". This he secured from Jacob Light of Millersburg. He had it mounted on a truck. The one side could be taken off and that served as a fence so you had to go

inside to see the clock at work. This was also mechanically made so that the scenes would appear to the audience. The first scene it showed was the Lord's Supper. Next came Judas' Betrayal, Satan Tempting Jesus, the Crucifixion, etc. The last scenes would be the Presidents of the United States up to that time, and then the clock would stop and wait for the next show. That clock is still in operation. In 1954 Ralph Witmer saw it at the Bloomsburg Fair, and he knew all about it, and told the person in charge some things he did not know. The owner was a World War I veteran and could not work, so came to Gratz and purchased it from the Smith children. He said that it was bringing him a good living by just asking people for a contribution. Mr. Smith also had the Johnstown Flood made for an attachment to the clock. Jacob Light was then old and not able to work, so it was never attached, and they think that part was destroyed by the fire in 1924. The Clock had been stored elsewhere and so was saved.

Smith and the town lost the hall in the big fire in 1924 and was not rebuilt. He built a new house and attached a large restaurant room to it, which is still standing, owned by Luther Wiest, who has a store and restaurant combination.

Smith's wife Mollie died in the early part of the 20th century. He then married Carrie Daniel, daughter of Israel Daniel. Their children are Ethel (Mrs. Bill Stanley) deceased; Herald Smith, married to Annie Kissinger, lives in Hegins and is a P.P. & L. employe; Dot Smith married to Joe Schminsky, a farmer of town. Harry died in July, 1925. Carrie died in 1938.

—C. H. Willier

—Ralph Witmer

NOTE:—(The year 1956 shows the close of the circus, or the big top as they are sometimes called. The Barnum-Bailey, the greatest show on earth, took down the tent and quit the season's engagements on July 19th, and moved to the home quarters at Sarasota, Florida. Also the King Shows went out of business in the New England states, about the same time. Financial and labor difficulties.)

The Stine Family

Frederick Stine was born in Germany and received his education in his native land, where he also learned the trade of stone mason, and came to the United States in 1775, when he was a young man. After the war he settled in Berks County, where he remained for some time. He removed to Lykens Township in 1788, took up 500 acres of land, and was extensively engaged in farming and stock raising. He also worked at his trade, masonry, in the Valley. He



Original home of Frederick Stine—Built 1788.
razed 1941—On farm of Austin W. Coleman

married Abigail Lamn, born in Berks County; their children were, Elizabeth, Mrs. Andrew Riegle; Rosanna, Mrs. John Coleman; Catherine, Mrs. John Dietz; and John Peter, (one of the descendants called him Peter J.) Frederick died in Lykens Township, April 24, 1832. His wife died in October, 1823. He was a Democrat, and both he and his wife were members of the Reformed Church.

John Peter Stine was born in Berks County in 1784. At the age of four years his parents settled in Lykens Township, where he grew to manhood, and had a good German education in the subscription schools of the time, and also received some training in English schools. He owned a farm of 320 acres, on which he built a dwelling house, still standing east of the Borough line, barn and other needful structures in which he carried on a general business of farming. John P. was married to Regina Coleman, in Lykens Township in

1795; daughter of Charles Coleman, a farmer of that Township. John P. and Regina Stine had thirteen children. They were: Daniel P.; Elizabeth, wife of Daniel Ritzman; Abigail, wife of Joseph D. Frohn; Peter L., merchant at Elizabethtown; Jonas, engineer at Pottsville; Josiah, farmer and tanner of Washington Township; Catherine, wife of Henry Moyer, and later wife of Peter Moyer; Frederick, died at age 17; Ellen, wife of James Glenn; John; and Charles Isaac and Ann Mara, all of whom died in infancy.

Daniel P. attended German schools in his township, also English subscription schools. But the whole extent of Daniel's school days was not more than six months. He began working on the farm at eight years of age, and continued with his father until he was of age. His work consisted of clearing the land and cultivating. At 21 years of age, Mr. Stine began business for himself. He bought a shop in Gratz, hired a harness maker and learned harness making with him. He then carried on this trade in Gratz for eight years. After this he bought a farm of 50 acres in Schuylkill County, which he improved and cultivated for four years, and then sold. He bought the homestead, consisting of 89 acres, in 1854, paying \$3,500 for it, built a fine barn on it, which cost \$1,700, and made other improvements. He worked at harness making in winter, and was reasonably successful in his business. He was Assessor and Supervisor in his township. He was a Democrat. Daniel P. Stine was married in Schuylkill County, August 27, 1844, to Catherine Stong, born in that county, June 13, 1820. Their children were: Mary J., born November 28, 1845, wife of P. J. Artz; and Amelia B., born November 28, 1847, wife of David Deitz, who bought the homestead. Their children, H. E., and Katie R., both died several years ago. Harry E. was the first auto mechanic in Gratz. He owned a car, which he drove through town quite often. That was in the beginning of the twentieth century. Mr. Daniel Stine was a member of the Reformed Church at Gratz, was a Deacon and Elder and Trustee; [Eliza-

beth, wife of Daniel Ritzman; Abigail, wife of Joseph D. Frohn, Pottsville, Pa.; Peter L., merchant at Elizabethville; Jonas, engineer at Pottsville; Josiah, farmer and tanner of Washington Township; Catherine, wife of Henry Moyer, and later wife of Peter Moyer; Frederick, died at age 17; Ellen, wife of James Glenn; John; and Charles Isaac and Ann Mara, all of whom died in infancy. (See the Good Family.)]

Peter L. Stine was born in Lykens Township in 1827. He was a farmer and had a grist mill in Washington Township for seventeen years. In 1885 he engaged in mercantile business in Elizabethville, meeting with success. Later in 1896, he was in the drug business in the same town. He was a Democrat, and held various township offices including school director. He was a member of the Reformed Church. He was married in Lykens Township, to Elizabeth Buffington, daughter of George Buffington, a grandson of Benjamin Buffington, in Lykens Valley. She was born in 1837 and died in 1892. Their children were: Ellen, wife of C. A. Deibler, farmer of Mifflin Township and merchant at Elizabethville; Sarah, wife of Daniel J. Deibler, Mifflin Township; Isaac T., farmer, and miller, Lykens Township; Catherine, wife of Edward Martin, Kansas; Peter E.; David C.; John J., died at the age of four years; Harry W.; Carrie, wife of Charles Cooper, farmer, Washington Township; Samuel T.

Peter E. Stine received a fair education in the schools of Washington Township, and at Berrysburg Seminary, which he attended for one term. He worked on the farm for his father until he was twenty years of age, after which he was clerk for Frederick Weaver in Elizabethville, for four years. For seven years, afterwards, he managed business for his father. On March 25, 1892, he removed to Mifflin Township and embarked in the creamery business, establishing a plant which cost \$4,000, including a cider press, and chop mill. Later he quit the chop mill, and put an attachment for apple butter making to the cider mill which they continued for 20 years.

In 1896 he paid the farmers in this region over \$1,000 per month for milk. He

also had a branch creamery in Northumberland County, which cost over \$1,000. In this business he was meeting with success. In 1910 he took the rural mail carrier examination, and was the rural mail carrier for 31 years. He retired in Elizabethville in 1941 where he died in 1951. His wife died in 1947.

Peter E. Stine was married in Mifflin Township in 1885, to Mary L., daughter of Jonathan Bonawitz, born in May, 1862. Their children are: (1) Amy L., Mrs. Harry Romberger; (2) Earl A.; (3) Clayton E., married to Bessie Minnich. Clayton took over the creamery, and gathers the cream from the farms of Lykens, Armstrong, Powells and Mahantango valleys, makes the butter, 4500 lbs. weekly, and sells eggs for the farmers, 55 cases per week; and (4) Hubert N., married to Beulah Shoop. He helped in the creamery business and was partner till he died 2 years ago.

Earl A. was born in Mifflin Township in 1890. He received his education in his native township. He took over the farm when his father became the rural mail carrier, and also ran the cider press and the apple butter factories when in season. He was also the assistant mail carrier during his father's service. At the present time they discontinued the cider press and apple butter making. He is solely engaged in farming the homestead, and the neighbor farm which he purchased. He is married to Lillie E. Henninger, a daughter of Isaac Henninger, of Lykens Township. She was born in 1890. She received her school education in Shepley's School, Lykens Township, now closed on account of the Upper Dauphin Jointure, since 1953.

Their children are: Floyd, married to Olive Yoder; Peter, married to Marie Umholtz; Woodrow, married to Marian Reigle, and Miriam, married to Isaac Tressler. Peter lives in Gratz and works in the shoe factory at Millersburg. They raise poultry and his hobby is raising horses. He has two horses training at Gratz Fair Grounds. On his father's farm they have a thoroughbred stallion, who broke his leg in a race, and a champion mare who also broke a leg in a race. From these they raised a yearling

and a little colt. A brand new Ford '56 model was offered for it. Let's hope he wins the 2 yr. sweepstake at "Bloom".

Josiah P. Stine, farmer, tanner, was born in Lykens Township, September 9, 1837. He attended school only ten days in all his life. He worked at home for his father, John Peter, the son of Frederick, the Revolutionary War soldier. He fought on the side of the English, a Hessian soldier. He was taken prisoner at Trenton. When the war was over, he said, "My king sold me once, but he is not going to do it the second time," and so he settled in Berks County.

Josiah worked until he was 16 years of age, when he and his brother went West in search of employment in 1855, and rented a farm in Ogle County, Illinois. They were soon discouraged and remained only two months, returning home in May. On the way, his pocket was picked of \$32. He then served an apprenticeship of two and a half years at the tanner's trade in Gratz. After this he bought the home tannery and eight acres of land in Washington Township, where he continued for thirty seven years. He added to the original purchase 49 acres and conducted farming operations in connection with the tannery located near Rife, Lykens Valley.

He was married in 1858 to Miss Catherine Louisa Good in Gratz. She was the daughter of Daniel and Margaret (Reedy) Good. She was baptized by Reverend Isaac Gerhart. In 1855 she joined Simeon's Reformed Church at Gratz. She moved with her husband to Stine's Tannery near Rife in 1859. Mr. Stine died in 1907. The children are: (1) Franklin P., who was born at Gratz. He joined the Reformed Church. He served as Deacon, and Superintendent of the Sunday School for a number of years, educated in the common schools of Gratz, graduating at Berrysburg Seminary, under Professor N. J. Hockenberry, and attended Millersville State Normal School, taught school for ten years, took to farming, and after the death of his father, he lived with his mother on the homestead near Rife. (2) Mary L., the youngest child, married S. W. Cooper, a surveyor, and they moved to Millersburg. She died in 1908. (3)

Daniel M. Stine, the father of Joseph R., clothier and furnisher, was born in 1860. He attended the public schools in the winter and during the summer he worked on the farm and at the tannery. In 1881 he took his first teacher's examination, and taught two terms, entered the Berrysburg Academy in the spring of 1882 and later Millersville State Normal School. He taught twenty-two successive terms.

In the spring of 1890, D. M. Stine entered the insurance business for nearly a quarter of a century. In 1903 the Stine family moved to Elizabethtown and was engaged in the clothing business. He taught Sunday School class for thirteen years, served as Superintendent of the Sunday School for nine years, and elder in church for 8 years. Mr. Stine was on the Elizabethtown school board for three years. He practices the idea, education, to its fullest extent, "Having expended," as he put it, "enough cold cash to buy a farm to educate my children." That he was of the genuine type of true American parent may be judged by his remark, "Am only too glad that I can earn some and have it to give."

While teaching at Williamstown, he married Mary C. Frank in 1886. Their children are: (1) Mark Emerson, graduated from Elizabethtown High School, Millersville State Normal School, class of 1908, and Franklin and Marshall College. He married Stella Finney, Ph.D., Professor in Columbia University, and author of seven books. They are now retired, living at Fort Lauderdale, Florida. No children.

(2) Lottie Irene, graduate of Elizabethtown High School, and the Shippensburg State Normal School. She married Dr. Charles H. Gordinier, a professor at Shippensburg, who was later a professor in the Millersville State Normal School, later its Principal and became the first president when it became the Millersville State Teachers College. They have one son, Charles S., living in Audubon, New Jersey. Lottie and Dr. Charles are living retired at Camp Hill, Pennsylvania.

Joseph Raphael, the great-great-grandson of Leonard Reedy, the Squire of

Gratz in 1822-48, graduated from the Elizabethtown High School, class of 1913; also Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, receiving an A.B. Degree. He took up the Auto Accessories and Sporting Goods business, and now owns a chain of twenty-two stores. His main office is at 3101 North 7th Street, and he lives at 125 Manor Street, Harrisburg. He is known as "Joe The Motorist's Friend." He serves on the Board of Trustees of Franklin and Marshall College, and President of St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church. Joe is married to Mary Kniley of

Lykens, Pennsylvania. They have two children: (1) Mary Louise, married to John C. Rauch, who have one child, Susan Walker, and live in Camp Hill; (2) Joseph K., is now Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. Joseph Raphael has a Grandfather's Clock, the case of which was made by Frederick Stine, the great-great-great-grandfather of Joe. The works were brought on horseback to Gratz, and put into the clock. The clock still runs and keeps time. It was handed down from father to eldest son, so Mark inherited the clock but gave it to Joseph before moving to Florida.

Charles Wise Family

Charles Wise, a retired miner, was born in Gratz in 1884, and has been a lifelong resident of the town. Samuel Wise, his father, was born February 1, 1849, in Lancaster County, and came to this valley when quite young. He was married to Ellen Buffington, a daughter of Jacob Buffington, of Gratz, the commissioner. Mr. Buffington resided at the corner of Main and West Streets, where he had a store and the Gratz Post Office for some time. He was also engaged in the manufacturing of soft drinks, especially sarsaparilla. His drinks were served as far as twenty miles in Lykens and Mahantango valleys. When Samuel was married he moved to town, served as a coal miner for about twelve years. He then became the manager of the Scheib's Tannery east of Gratz. He was a lifelong resident of Gratz. When the tannery closed up, he worked at the Michael Hartman tannery in Gratz, located on the south side of Market Street, west of Hill Street. He worked there till the tannery was closed. Served as a school director, tax collector, and councilman, was a member of the Reformed Church, and served as an Elder for many years. He was genial and popular, and well liked by the people of Gratz. In politics he was a Republican. Samuel died in 1917; Ellen in 1906.

George Wise, Charles' grandfather, was born October 11, 1814, in Lancaster County. Mr. Wise removed to Lykens Valley on a farm at Shiffer's Mill. He then bought the

farm now owned by Romberger west of Loyaltown. He later sold the farm and removed to Gratz, where they resided until death. They had twelve children. Henry, born December 3, 1843, had one son Allen, who lived in Elizabethtown. James, born April 20, 1845, had one son and two daughters and lived at Rife. Jacob, born November 12, 1847, had one son, Charles, of Lykens, Pa. Samuel, born February 1, 1849, married to Ellen Buffington. Their children were three daughters, Annie, Hattie, and Maude; and three sons, George, Charles and Harry. Of this family four are living today. Davis, born February 11, 1858, had two sons and four daughters. Barbara, born September 17, 1860, was married to Tom Smith, and had two sons and three daughters. Margaret, born October 6, 1854, was married to Charles Kauderman, and this family was blessed with nineteen children, of these six daughters and two sons are living. Five of George's and Beckie's children died in one week in Lancaster County, with an attack of typhoid fever. They were Mary, Albine, John, William, and Andrew.

Charles was a resident of Gratz all his life. He received his education in the Gratz schools, and became a member of the first Gratz baseball team. After he quit school, he became a laborer in the coal mines, then a miner at which work he was engaged for 33 years till the mine closed.

He served as assessor for Gratz Borough for 26 years. He was the Republican Party

committeeman for sixteen years. He is now retired from holding office, and politics. He takes care of the Gratz Fire Company social room since 1948, three days a week. He also served as deacon in the Reformed Church at Gratz. He was married to Dorothy Laudenslager on June 22, 1907. They had three children: Mary, single; Alma was married to Roy Hess, deceased, a Gratz boy. Alma then married Gene Wiscardia from Pen-

brook. Doris, Alma's daughter, is married to Mervin Walters, and they have three children, Michael, David, and Lindy Gay. Charles, Jr. is married to Betty Solida; they have three children. One set of twins, Jane and Lane (deceased), and Patricia.

Charles' wife died on September 13, 1942. We call Charles, Sr., Pat for short; he is genial and popular, enjoying the confidence and good will of his fellow citizens.

The Witmer Family

Jacob H. Witmer, son of Isaac and Anna Witmer, was born November 25, 1862, at Pillow, Pennsylvania, where he received his education. At the age of 18, he came to Gratz where he learned his trade as a carpenter, with Jacob McNoldy of Gratz. While he was learning his trade he met his wife Malinda S. Campbell, a daughter of Peter and Susanna Campbell, living at that time at the Old Fort Jackson, near the Boy Scout Camp, at the foot of the Short Mountain, south of the town. She and her parents later moved to town into the house where Samuel Long now lives. They were married May, 1883, and lived with her parents for a few years. He then became the carpenter for Gratz and vicinity. He helped in preparing and raising many houses and barns in this community. They had issue of one son and five daughters.

The only son, Ralph H., received his education in the Gratz Schools, and followed in the footsteps of his father and became a carpenter. In his youth he became a member of the Harry Smith traveling show, returning every fall to Gratz. He was married to Erma A. Umholtz, and has been a life-long resident of Gratz. He is connected with the Reformed Church, sings in the choir, sang bass in the Quartet of Gratz, and took an active part in the Gratz Plays in the early part of the 20th Century. If you want any-

thing made in the carpenter business, you name it and he makes it. They have one son Elwood, living at Gratz, who served in the Second World War with the United States Navy in New Guinea in the South Pacific for about three years. Ralph H. served in the First World War, in the 314th Infantry, 79th Division in France for a period of over one year, and was reported wounded and missing in action in the battle at the Argonne Forest in France. He, however, turned up after the war and came home to Gratz, where he resides today. Ralph's only other child, Lorraine, is the wife of Cyril Shade.

The other children of the Witmers received their education in the borough schools. Ellen is married to Howard Barr, Valley View; Gertie is married to Alfred Gwyther, Wiconisco; Anna is married to Mahlon Reed of Dornsife, Pennsylvania; Ida L. and Sula E. are unmarried and live in Gratz. Sula A. is a news reporter for Gratz.

Jacob H. Witmer was elected as constable of Gratz Borough, and served for about forty-five years until his death, May 29, 1940. His son Ralph then took over as constable. Jacob also served as sexton or janitor of the Lutheran and Reformed Church at Gratz. Mr. Witmer had seven grandchildren surviving him when he died.

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Luther Smeltz	Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Walborn	Florence Davis
Mrs. Leroy Zerfing	Mr. and Mrs. Harold Spotts	Mrs. James Wiest
Lucy Strayer	Catharine Matter	Mrs. Carrie Phillips
Melvin Paul	Mr. and Mrs. John Brosius	Eleanore Phillips
Emily Wood	Grace A. Williard	Mary Daniel
Neale Blyler	Mr. and Mrs. Almond	John and Kate Shade
Scott Sunday, Sr.	Oxenrider	Mr. and Mrs. Peter Stine
Miss Beulah Snyder	Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Kebaugh	Edna and Laura Hess
Mr. and Mrs. Ray H. Snyder		Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Klinger

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Koppenhaver	Mr. and Mrs. Walter Umholtz	Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Koppenhaver
Mrs. Catharine Williard	William Deppen	Lottie F. Ritzman
Gilbert Koppenhaver	Edward A. Riegle	Mrs. Hannah Miller
Harold Umholtz	Ralph Schminky	Mrs. Harry Smeltzer
Ruth Stiely	Keystone Trust Company	Morris M. Hartman
Alma Hartman	Etta Haag Cahn	C. G. Updegrave
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wiest	Mrs. Leroy Eckert	Lloyd M. Bellis
Mr. and Mrs. John Schoffstall	T. R. Hepler	Emory Daniel
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hepler, Jr.	Dr. and Mrs. Guy Kratzer	Stanley Klinger
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Straub	Lee Boyer	Harry C. Zerfing
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Shade and Daughter	Mabel H. Schwalm	Mary Shade
Mr. and Mrs. Earl Jury	Frank Marcello	Mr. and Mrs. Fred Laudenslager
Mr. and Mrs. Darvin Daniel	Miss Clair Searer and Father	Mr. and Mrs. Herald Enders
Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer Deibert	Lillian Wolf Schwartz	J. H. Hoffman
Mr. and Mrs. Clair Romberger and Daughters	Mr. Abe Gross	John Welker
Mr. and Mrs. Earl Kissinger	H. and J. Gross	George A. Keener
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Maurer	Ida Gross Thorpe	Commonwealth Telephone Co.
Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Shiro and Daughter	Raymond Coleman	William E. Phillips
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hartman	Ruth Portzline	James J. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Carl "Muggs"	Allen Thomas	Anne Coleman Schurman
Mr. C. A. Evitts	Clarion and Verna Bowman Strouse	Herald Smith
Eleanor Hepner	Mollie Bowman	Mr. and Mrs. Carl Soellner
Miss Alma E. Maurer	Rachel Gross Goldstein	Darwin Sitlinger
Ivan Lettich	John Bingaman	William Deitrich
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Sitlinger	Dormar Mfg. Co.	Roy Blyler
	Kate Hoke	Vaughn Miller
	Harry Knohr	Mr. E. H. Hummel
		Anonymous

SCENES ABOUT THE TOWN



Gratz Postoffice and Snyder's Furniture Store



Rothermel's Cafe at Fair Grounds

1955 - 1956 ADDENDA

These few paragraphs are about events which happened since the Sesquicentennial. They are being added to this volume just before publication.

Freeman C. Willier and Robert Schwartz were among those honored at a banquet held by the Pennsylvania Cooperative Potato Growers Association as a testimonial to members producing more than four hundred bushels per acre. Under irrigation Schwartz produced 720 bushels per acre; without irrigation Willier produced 474.5 bushels.

On August 29, 1955 the first Gratz telephone exchange, completely automatic, was put into operation. A total of 179 subscribers were cut over to dial service. Gratz was the first community in the area served by the old Wiconisco Telephone Company to get dial service. The exchange bears the poetic name of FOxcroft. This is just a small part of a huge expansion program which the present owners, the Commonwealth Telephone Company, is vigorously pushing forward over its extensive territory.

In September the Gratz baseball team, after dropping the first two games to Valley View in the Twin County League play-off, won three straight to win championship honors.

In Legion baseball Valley View won state championship honors. Jack Reed of Gratz, a member of this team, was voted the most valuable player in the tournament, and was presented a trophy by George M. Bellis, state Legion Director of Athletics.

In December Allen L. Schade purchased the Gratz Community Center from Robert Kriner.

In January of 1956 Raymond Hartman of Gratz, a student in Tri-Valley High

School at Hegins, was awarded the Keystone Farmer degree by the State Future Farmers of America.

In April Irvin C. Adams opened a spacious used-car lot opposite the airport.

The Gratz Fair Association elected the following slate of officers: President, Wilbur E. Buffington; Vice-President, Allen A. Shade; Corresponding Secretary, Dr. C. J. Umholtz; Recording Secretary, Gilbert C. Koppenhaver; Treasurer, George C. Adams.

During May the Junior Band composed of Gratz Borough and Lykens Township pupils rendered its first concert in the Gratz Community Center. The band is directed by Peter Carpenter.

A modern bakery and pastry shop was built on So. Center Street, and began operation early in the summer. Mr. Schwartz learned his trade in the Milton Hershey School. He is married to Annie Shade, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanford Shade, and granddaughter of Jacob Shiro.

A summer recreational program was conducted by John V. Kell. Library service was provided by Mrs. Lorraine Shade and Becci Stine.

The Gratz Fair was held September 16-22. The program opened on Sunday with religious services conducted by Rev. H. M. Mentzer of Valley View assisted by the local pastors, the Valley View Choir and local choirs.

During the summer extensive improvements to the grounds had been made. The Midway and roadways to the parking lots were macadamized and the main exhibition building was enlarged, virtually doubling its size.

An amateur program with \$450 in prizes was held Monday night, and a beauty and talent show with \$250 in prizes on Wednesday night. Tuesday night featured the Jack Kochman Thrill Show. Thursday was observed as Pennsylvania Dutch Day. Friday was School Day with eleven high school bands participating in the Band Festival, with the German Singers of Doylestown putting on the evening program. Saturday's feature was running races with participation limited to local horses. Both gate receipts and attendance were the largest in history.

In September Clyde D. Snyder began operating the Friday night Fair Grounds Auction. The Leitzels moved their auction to their new location at the cross roads three miles west of town.

Efforts are being made to raise funds to build an addition to Simeon's Church to be used as an educational and social unit. The estimated cost is \$50,000.

The Gratz National Bank has completed its expansion program and held open house on December 12. The new facilities housed in a two-story addition to the old building includes directors' room, consultation room, bookkeeping room with new equipment, and new rest rooms. The lot in the rear of the building has been macadamized to serve as a parking area. There is also a new rear entrance from the parking lot.

Since the Sesquicentennial a number of new homes have been built in town. Henry Laudenslager erected one on East Market Street, Elwood Witmer on E. South Second Street, Jack Hepler on W. South Second Street, Ray Leitzel on W. Market Street, Earl Jury on W. So. Second.

People who died since the Sesquicentennial included the following: Charles Clark (died on opening day of the Sesqui), Mrs. Jennie Buffington, Mrs. Jennie Hoffman, Charles M. Klinger, Norman D. Sitlinger, Mrs. Minnie Zerfing, Sula Witmer, John C. Williard, J. Ed. A. Moyer.

SCENES ABOUT THE TOWN



Snyder's Store, operated by Isaac Hepler many years ago.



Harold Umholtz's barber shop—formerly operated by his father George.

MAP AND DIRECTORY SUPPLEMENT

The concluding part of this volume is made up of seven maps pertaining to the history of Lykens Township and Gratz Borough at various periods of their development, as well as directories of both the township and the borough at the time of the Sesquicentennial.

The maps are seven in number and are produced in the following order:

- I. The Original Land Grants and Patents
- II. Gratz Borough and Lykens Township 1862
- III. Gratz 1862
- IV. Lykens Township 1875
- V. Gratz 1875
- VI. Lykens Township 1955
- VII. Gratz 1955

Notes On The Map Of Land Grants

The earliest record to be found of the inhabitants of the Lykens Township area as distinct from Upper Paxtang is contained in a paper indorsed "Appeal Dublicate, 1778, Peter Hoffman, Upper Paxtang, Wikiniski District."

It will be seen by the large number of Located Lands that much of the valley had been taken up by outside parties for speculation. Aaron Levy, Michael Miller, John Cline and Henry Wails, judging by the taxes levied, were large land owners at that time.

Here are some lands that very likely were located in present Lykens Township and Gratz Borough (The numbers indicate acreage): Benjamin Buffington 100, Philip Klinger 200, John Cole 150, Joel Ferree 200, ——— Grub 200, Peter Hoffman 200, John Hoffman 100, David Harman 100, Abram Inrey 300, John Matter 100, George Negley 80, Henry Omholtz 30, Joseph Phil-

lips 50, Philip Rousculp 100, George Shoop 50, Michael Salady 75, Detrich Stonebreaker 50, Leonard Sneider 150, Jacob Smith 200, Ludwig Shott 100, James Woodside 100, Capt. Weaver 50, Henry Wolf 30, Adam Wentz 100, Andrew Yeager 100.

In the records for 1780 we note the following as owners of Unimproved Lands: George Fry 300, Nicholas Miller 300, Simon Sneider 400, George Eckert 150, Aaron Levy 1000, Jacob Wetmer 200, Martin Greider 300, Levy Simons 100, Dan'l Wolf 100, Michael Walker 300, Andrew Riegle 100.

These returns were made before many land patents had been granted, and much of the land was sold by the original holders to others to whom the land patent was issued later.

Historians tell us that in terms of today's dollar the original owners paid about one dollar per acre for their holdings.

Notes On Lykens Township Map Of 1862

Notice that comparatively few names have died out in these ninety-three years,

and that quite a number of farms are still in the same family name.

Notes On Gratz Map Of 1862

Observe that Center Street was then Chestnut Street; that the only schoolhouse was then standing on the site of Claude Buffington's barber shop; that some industries

and businesses have passed out of existence; and that the boys in those days had to have two hotels close together to keep their whistles wet.

Notes On Lykens Township Map Of 1875

By 1875 all the schools were in their present location except Kessler's. Grist-mills and sawmills were common along the streams. The "Gratz Driving Park," now

the Gratz Fair, had come into being east of town. Only a small number of family names have disappeared in these eighty years.

Notes On Gratz Map Of 1875

The town then extended only as far as High Street, Mrs. Hannah Umholtz's house and the vacant lot where J. E. A. Moyer's house now stands, being the eastern boundary. By then the Odd Fellows Hall had been erected as well as the brick school house north of town. A list of professional and

business men are included. The older generation will recall many of the residents whose names and places of abode are noted on the map. The editors express their gratitude to Miss Miriam A. Boyer for her collaboration on this map.

Notes On The Lykens Township Map of 1955

This is an adaptation of the map which C. H. Willier used in 1950 while taking the 1950 census. Homes of the township residents are shown by number on the map.

With the aid of the corresponding list of names it should be possible to find the residence of anyone wanted.

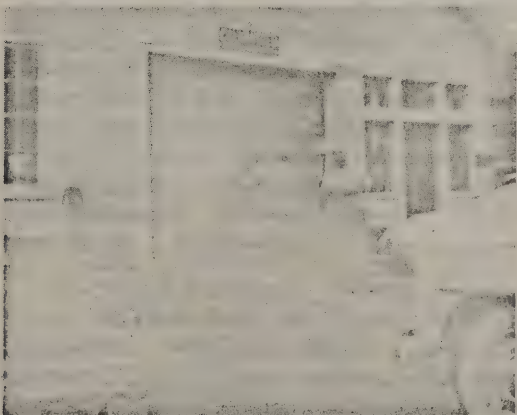
Notes On Gratz Borough Map Of 1955

An original piece of work done by your committee, with the approval of the Gratz Borough Council, was the numbering of the houses on the major streets in the borough. For a hundred and fifty years the residents of Gratz have had to make lengthy explanations to their out-of-town friends as to where they lived. This should make it easier.

Note that the town is not only growing east and west but also north and south.

The committee thanks Wm. J. Pauling, Jr., of the Commonwealth Telephone Company for drafting this map in outline. Mr. Willier added the homes and street numbers.

SCENES ABOUT THE TOWN



The village blacksmith, Ralph Kratzer and a customer, Forrest Hess. Shop built in 1902.



The Sky-Vu Drive-in Theater
Courtesy — Valley Citizen

Lykens Township—1955

(Numbers refer to large map)

Beginning at Erdman Hotel East.

1-Leona Williard. 2-Jay Laudenslager. 3-Willard Deibert. 3a-Darvin Deibert. 4-Charles Klinger. 5-John Stiely. 6-Ernest Klinger. 7-Clarence Deibert. 8-Ernest Erdman. 9-Edwin Klinger. 10-William Oxenrider. 11-Junior W. Erdman. 11a-Luther Kessler. 11b-Oscar Kessler. 12-Luther Klinger, barber and appliance store. 13-Robert Klinger. 14-Edna Rebeck. 15-Homer Kessler. 16-Verna Klinger. 17-Leroy Martz. 18-Albert Snyder. 19-Robert Keefer. 20-Ed Knorr. 21-George Deibert.

22-John Mowrey. 23-Victor Clark. 24-Lester Buffington. 25-Charles Harner. 26-Raymond Mauser. 27-Elmer Harner. 28-Lee Wertz. c. new home. 30-William Roy Smeltz. 31-Harry Koppenhaver. 31-Clyde Smeltz. 32-Daniel Smeltz. 33-Roy Williams. 34-widow Ida Hoffman. 35-Roy Klinger. 36-Henry Klinger. 36d-two cottages, Fish Dam, Bud Stiely, Ira Klinger. 37-Bryant Klinger. 38-Wilber Tice. 39-Harrison Umholtz, and Ward Roadcap.

40-Charles Welker. 41-H. O. Klinger. 42-Artie Umholtz. 43-James Mace. 44-Alen Mace and Earl Mowery. 45-Herbert and James Mace. 46-Irene M. Reed, h. Robert R. Reed. 47-Harry Unger, assessor, teacher. 48-Leonard Lettich, i. Picnic Grove, Frozen Custard. 49-George Rheinoel. 50-William Klinger. 51-Herman Klinger. 52-C. R. Klinger, Car Transport, beef cattle, stock raiser, and K.U.K. Auto Transport, large dam along Route 25. 53-Meda Koppenhaver. 54-Alvin Michael. 55-widow Gertie and Willard Kissinger. 56-Howard Michael, J. Russell Buffington. 57-Oscar Messner. 58-Adam Smeltz. 59-Vacant.

60-Minnie Buffington. 61-Ray Zimmerman. 62-Mark Reed. 63-Vacant. 64-Harry Schreffler. 65-Claude Reed. 66-M. E. Klinger, garage, auto repairs, and appliances. 67-Alvin Klinger; k. Marlin Klinger; l. Ernest Lucas; m. Elwood Lucas. 68-Charles Hatter. 69-Whalen Wenrich.

70-John Clark. 71-Arthur Wiest. 72-Lillie Mauser. 73-Ira Schwalm. 74-Elmer Blyler, fruit grower, strawberries, potatoes, vegetables and peaches. 75-A. K. Ochs. 76-Charles Keiter, canning representative, vegetable grower. 77-Austin Coleman. 78-Willard Wiest. 79-Mark Coleman.

80-Clifford Rothermel. 81-Vacant. 82-Ray P. Lahr. 83-Vacant. 84-Robert Coleman. 85-Raymond Buffington. 86-Mrs. Gordon Klinger, William H. Straub. 87-Ada Wolfe. 88-Lubold School House. 89-Robert Wolfe. 90-Albert Ebert; v. William Deppen; w. Ralph Kessler. 93-Arthur Lubold. 94-Carrie Lubold. 95-William Geist. 96-Whalen Mattern. 97-Daisy Kessler; n. Warren and Ray Leitzel Garage, Television. 98-William Witmer. 99-Martha Martz.

100 - Marvin Headdings. 101 - William Straub. 102-Roy Umholtz; o. Leon Straub. 103-Marlin Kessler. 104-Roy Kessler. 105-Allen Scheib. 106-Verna Klinger. 110-Alvin Williard, Katie Williard. 111-Charles Rothermel; p. Guy Rothermel. 112-Harry Scheib. 113-Lee Leitzel. 114-Tessie Miller. 115-Rufus Wiest. 116-Kenneth L. Lebo. 117-Kate Straub. 118-John Kessler. 119-Harry S. Straub. 120-Harry A. Straub; u. Warren Wolfe.

121-Ray Deppen. 122-Guy Snyder. 123-Ray Wiest. 124-Thomas Klinger. 125-Melvin Wiest. 126-Darwin Williard. 127-Lizzie Klinger. 128-William H. Crawley. 129-Vacant. 130-Oliver Wolfgang. 131-Reuben Muth. 132-Mary Wiest. 133-Harry Laudenslager. 134-Leon Engle. 135-Sadie Engle. 136-Herman Snyder. 137-Mabel Daniel. 138-Arlan Scheib. 139-Paul Welker.

140-Sinary Kessler. 141-Mae Rothermel. 142-Elwood Weaver. 143-Stanley Klinger. 144-John Thomas. 145-Charles Muth. 146-K. B. Boyer. 147-Vacant. 148-Harvey Gonder. 149-George Weaver. 150-Vacant. 151-John Shiffer. 152-Marlin P. Straub. 153-Roy Leitzel. 154-Bruce L. Klouser. 155-Bud Paul. 156-Orlando Willier. 157-John Romberger. 158-Clarence Daniel. 159-Clyde Snyder. 160-Joseph Hartman.

161-Charles Romberger. 162-Lloyd Hartman. 163-Roy Williard. 164-Darwin Sitlinger. 165-Ray Hartman. 166-Blair Wiest. 167-Albert Leshner. 168-Homer Daniel. 169-John Kissinger; r. Blair Kissinger. 170-Gurney Martz. 171-Clayton H. Willier, teacher, farmer, historian for Gratz Sesquicentennial. 172-John Boyer, breeder of Registered Angus beef cattle. 173-Stanley Hess. 174-Frank Hess. 175-Moses Troutman. 176-Earl Leshner. 177-Lee E. Boyer, Ed.D., Professor of Mathematics, Millersville State Teachers College, specialty in beef cattle. 177a-Charles Kissinger. 178-Clair Hartman. 179-Tom Smeltz. 180-John Welker.

181-Earl Peifer. 182-Jeff Miller. 183-Melvin Herb. 184-Alvin Daniel. 185-Robert Schwartz. 186-Clarence Hoffman. 187-Harry Kissinger. 188-Mark Kissinger. 189-Elmer Shade. 190-Clayton Sitlinger. 191-Lincoln Leffler. 192-Elmer Shade. 193-Charles Hoffman. 194-Park Ferree. 195-Emery I. Sitlinger. 196-Charles A. Sitlinger. 197-Ellen Gunterman. 198-John Gunterman. 199-Vacant. 200-Katie Engle.

201-William Deitrich. 202-Annie Mauser. 203-Charles Lucas. 204-Beulah Chubb. 205-Vacant. 206-Charles Maurer. 207-Gertie Snyder. 208-Vacant. 209-John Chubb. 210-Albert Sitlinger. 211-Arthur Hoffman. 212-Russel Sitlinger. 213-Louis Shadle. 214-Albert Morgan. 215-Mary Lentz. 216-Vacant. 217-Henry Wenrich. 218-Paul L. Crissinger. 219-Vacant. 220-Allen A. Shade,

dealer in feed, Somermaid eggs, poultry raiser. 221-Joel A. Koons.

222-John Schoffstall. 223-Roy F. Shade. 224-Clarence Welker. 225-George H. Shade. 226-Lloyd L. Lenker. 227-Isaac Reigle. 228-Paul Ferree. 229-Lester Lubold. 230-Jonas Lubold; s. Ernest Lenker. 231-Samuel Billow. 232-Paul Romberger. 233-Mary Ida Romberger. 234-Mark Byerly. 235-Roy Gonder. 236-Leroy Warfel. 237-Ray Peifer. 238-Reverend Homer Hain. 239-Albert Reed. 240-E. A. Feidt. 241-Charles Reigle. 242-Sadie Reigle. 243-Mary Finkbone. 244-Darwin Fager. 245-Harvey Hoover. 246-Harold H. Hoover; John Harris. 247-Edna R. Riegle. 248-Robert Harris. 249-John Harris, Jr.

250-William D. Steely. 251-Lloyd Billow; 251a-Paul Leshner. 252-Charles Leshner; 252a-Mary Leshner. 253-Paul Dockey, dealer in antiques. 254-Harry Henninger. 255-Lee W. Knorr. 256-Lester Welker. 257-Charles A. Lilley. 258-Samuel W. Kolva. 259-Isaac Troutman. 260-Paul Troutman. 261-John Troutman. 262-James Troutman. 263-Paul Henninger. 264-Lee Henninger. 265-Charles Henninger, teacher, farmer, tax collector; Charles Lehr. 266-Harlan Martz. 267-Harry Klinger, teacher, farmer. 268-Vacant. 269-Albert Shade. 270-Lloyd Romberger. 271-Harvey Wolfgang. 272-Eston Heller. 273-Charles R. Shade. 274-Ralph Dockey.

SCENES ABOUT THE TOWN



Rebuck's store and residence



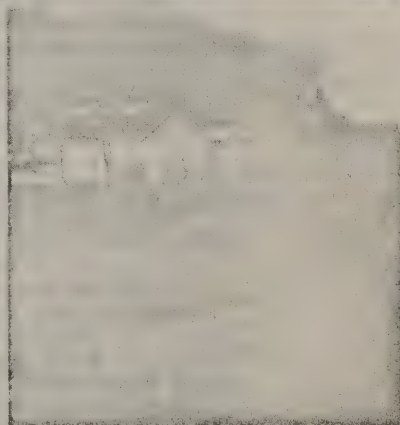
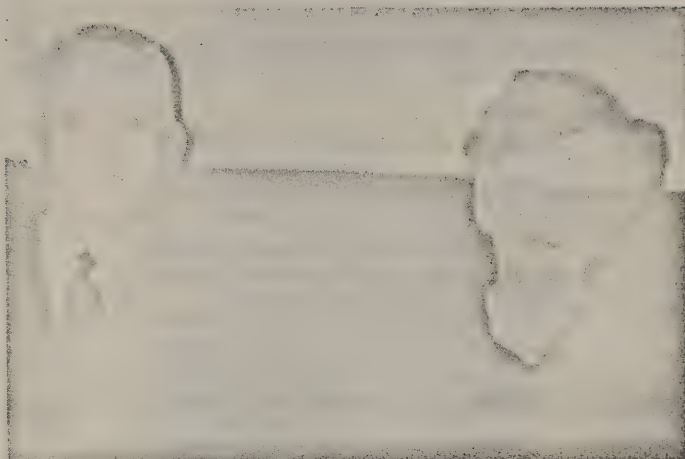
Searer's Store

Oldest Residents of Gratz

All Over Eighty

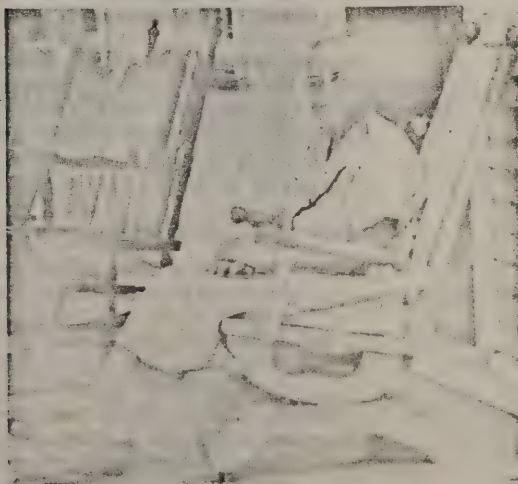
July 2, 1955

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Troxell →



Clarence U. Kratzer after a day's work,
gets carrots from his garden

John and Carrie Schminky
← Courtesy — Valley Citizen



Catherine Willier



Mrs. Elsie Bellis

RESIDENTS OF GRATZ AS OF JULY 2, 1955

Adams, George C., 108 W. Market
 Adams, Anna Buffington, 108 W. Market
 Adams, Irvin C., 102 E. Market
 Adams, Pauline Snyder, 102 E. Market
 Paul

Bellis, Elsie Sitlinger, 20 E. Market
 Bingaman, John H., West of town
 Bingaman, Alice Phillips, West of town
 Bingaman, Byron, West of town
 Bingaman, Helen Lettich, West of town
 Ronald, Beverly, Gloria
 Bingaman, James, West of town
 Bingaman, John, Jr., West of town
 Bingaman, Owen, West of town
 Bingaman, Richard, West of town
 Bingaman, Ivan, Farm east of town
 Bingaman, Pauline Lahr, Farm east of town
 Harold, Dennis, Lorna, Earla

Blyler, Neale, 1 W. Market
 Blyler, Leona Strawhecker, 1 W. Market

Blyler, Roy, 9 W. Market
 Boger, Mae E., So. Center
 Bohr, Esta Bowman, 9 W. Market
 Bowman, Beulah Bellis, 144 E. Market

Boyer, Amos, 2 W. Market
 Boyer, Miriam, 114 W. Market
 Bressler, Earl, Airport
 Bressler, Verna Hess, Airport
 Brosius, Jay A., 220 E. Market
 Brosius, Anna Strayer, 220 E. Market
 Brosius, John, No. Spruce
 Brosius, Jennie Reed, No. Spruce
 William, Elaine, Lamar

Brown, Roy J., No. Center
 Brown, Jean, No. Center
 Sharon, Steven

Brown, Wayne, No. Center
 Brown, Elsie Welker, No. Center
 Lana

Buffington, Claude S., 115 W. Market
 Buffington, Emma Williard, 115 W. Market
 Buffington, Jennie Hoffman, 143 E. So. Second
 Buffington, Warren, 143 E. So. Second
 Buffington, J. Robert, 19 E. Market
 Buffington, Viola Paul, 19 E. Market
 Janice

Buffington, Maude Geist, 232 E. Market

Carl, Lewis, West of town
 Carl, Jennie Herb, West of town
 Clark, Charles, 125 E. Market
 Clark, Jennie Haag, 125 E. Market
 Clark, Elmer, 143 E. Market
 Clark, Maggie, 143 E. Market
 Clark, Emma Scheib, 126 E. Market
 Clark, Hannah, 126 E. Market
 Coleman, Mina, 302 E. Market
 Cook, Norman, 143 W. Market

Cook, Alverta Kissinger, 143 W. Market
 Phyllis, Donna
 Cunningham, Eleanor Smeltz, 25 W. Market
 Anne

Daniels, Allen E., 332 E. Market
 Daniels, Rebecca Willier, 332 E. Market
 June and Jean Crabb

Daniels, Alvin, 115 W. Market
 Daniels, Mabel Bretzius, 115 W. Market
 Daniels, Darvin, 219 W. Market
 Daniels, Eva Deibert, 219 W. Market
 Isadore

Daniels, Mollie Hess, 407 E. Market
 Daniels, Dunn, 407 E. Market
 Daniels, Orville, 332 E. Market
 Daniels, Phyllis Hoover, 332 E. Market
 Orville, Jr., Kim Douglas

Daniels, Walter, 344 E. Market
 Daniels, Mary Miller, 344 E. Market
 Terry

Davis, Harry W., 37 E. So. Third
 Davis, Alfreida Scheib, 37 E. So. Third
 Paulette, Wendy, Jeffrey
 Davis, Hazel Crawley, 526 E. Market
 Florence

Deibert, Raymond, So. Pine
 Deibert, Violet Herb, So. Pine
 Carolyn, Robert

Deibert, Wilmer, 514 E. Market
 Deibert, Sadie Knorr, 514 E. Market
 Deppen, Richard, 104 W. Market
 Deppen, Resta Lenker, 104 W. Market
 Dietrich, Jennie, 47 W. Main
 Dietrich, Laura, 47 W. Main
 Donmoyer, Boyd, 225 W. Market
 Donmoyer, Helen Deibert, 225 W. Market
 Ruth

Downing, Jennie Blyler, 9 W. Market

Engle, Earl E., Farm, fair grounds
 Clair, Arlene, Betty
 Erdman, Lola, 143 W. Market
 Erdman, Marlin, No. Center
 Erdman, Fern Shade

Cheryl, Ramona, Marlin
 Evitts, Charles A., 213 W. Market
 Evitts, Laura Hess, 407 E. Market

Feger, Marlin, 101 E. Market
 Feger, Arlene Kissinger, 101 E. Market
 Brenda

Felsburg, Elsie Schminky, 537 E. Market
 Sharon

Grimm, Lee, 144 W. Market
 Grimm, Merlie, 144 W. Market
 Charles Harman

Harner, Roy, Near airport
 Harner, Mary Schrawder, Near airport

Hartman, Alma, 231 E. Market
 Hartman, Eddie, 119 E. Market
 Hartman, Margaret Bixler, 119 E. Market
 Vicki, Suzanne
 Hartman, George R., 226 E. Market
 Hartman, Hannah Willier, 226 E. Market
 Hartman, Herbert, 413 E. Market
 Hartman, Katie Koppenhaver, 413 E. Market
 Hartman, Joseph H., West end of town
 Hartman, Elma Willier, West end of town
 Hartman, Richard, No. Center
 Hartman, Irene Laudenslager, No. Center
 Brenda
 Hartman, Sallie, 28 E. Market
 Hartman, Thomas, 201 E. Market
 Hartman, Anna Brosius, 201 E. Market
 Hassinger, Laura, 32 E. Market
 Heddings, Woodrow, 43 W. Market
 Heim, Henry, 143 E. So. Second
 Heim, Marlin, No. Center
 Heim, June Miller, No. Center
 Rose Marie
 Henninger, Norwood, 511 E. Market
 Henninger, Hannah Umholtz, 511 E. Market
 Hepler, Benjamin I., So. Chestnut
 Hepler, Mary Updegrave, So. Chestnut
 Curtis, James
 Hepler, Beulah Tobias, 14 E. Market
 Hepler, Blanche, 14 E. Market
 Hepler, Glenn, 14 W. So. Second
 Hepler, Harry, 14 W. So. Second
 Hepler, Laura Minnich, 14 W. So. Second
 Hepler, Harry, Jr., 301 W. Market
 Hepler, Hilda Davis, 301 W. Market
 Karen, Michael, Louann
 Hepler, Jack, 14 E. Market
 Hepler, Irene Sitlinger, 14 E. Market
 Deborah Ann
 Hepler, Lewis M., 207 E. Market
 Hepler, Lottie Schminky, 207 E. Market
 Ann Louise, John, George
 Hepner, Eleanor Bixler, 315 W. Market
 Eugene, Patsy, Ronald, Denise, Jeffery
 Herb, Jacob, So. Center
 Herb, Hannah Smeltz, So. Center
 Harold
 Hess, Edna, 407 E. Market
 Hess, Lewis, 126 E. So. Third
 Hess, Jennie Shade, 200 E. Market
 Hess, Forrest, 200 E. Market
 Hess, W. Arthur, So. Pine
 Hoffman, Clarence, Loyalton Road
 Hoffman, Helen Joppa, Loyalton Road
 Clarence, Tommy
 Hoffman, Earle P., 125 W. Market
 Hoffman, Eston J., 219 E. Market
 Hoffman, Annie Hartman, 219 E. Market
 Roland, Dale
 Hoffman, James, 125 W. Market
 Hoffman, Jennie, 5 W. Market
 Hoffman, Lizzie Bowman, 5 W. Market
 Hoffman, Russell A., 138 E. Market
 Hoffman, Edna Lupold, 138 E. Market
 Hoke, William C., 307 W. Market
 Hoke, Katie Koppenhaver, 307 W. Market
 Hopple, Annie Clark, No. Spruce
 Hopple, Maude Goodman, 238 E. Market
 Darlene
 Hopple, Robert, 410 E. Market
 Hopple, Mazie Feger, 410 E. Market
 Colin, Arabelle
 Horn, Arthur A., M.D., 343 E. Market
 Horn, Helen Felsburg, 343 E. Market
 Cynthia Diane
 Jury, Earl, 201 W. Market
 Jury, Sara Schoffstall, 201 W. Market
 Diane
 Kebaugh, Mark J., 144 E. Market
 Kebaugh, Marie Gise, 144 E. Market
 Kebaugh, Rufus G., So. Spruce
 Kebaugh, Viola Davis, So. Spruce
 John
 Kessler, Mark, 125 E. So. Second
 Kessler, Margaret Erdman, 125 E. So. Second
 Virginia, Violet, Mark, Deborah
 Kissinger, Agnes Koppenhaver, 307 E. Market
 Kissinger, Arland, 143 W. Market
 Kissinger, Bernice, 137 W. Market
 Kissinger, Bertha Klouser, 114 E. Market
 Kissinger, Earl, 237 W. Market
 Kissinger, Margaret, 237 W. Market
 Earl, Jr.
 Kissinger, Ray, No. Center
 Kissinger, Alverta Schroyer, No. Center
 Melvin, Ray, Jr., Frances, Karen
 Kissinger, Raymond, 307 E. Market
 Kissinger, Sara Harman, 307 E. Market
 Kissinger, Robert, No. Center
 Kissinger, Lillian Reitz, No. Center
 Gary
 Kissinger, Roy, 143 W. Market
 Klinger, Charles M., 2 E. Market
 Klinger, Floyd, 325 E. Market
 Klinger, Dorothy Smith, 325 E. Market
 Mae
 Klinger, George F., 432 E. Market
 Klinger, Nettie Scheib, 432 E. Market
 Klinger, Glenn R., 432 E. Market
 Klinger, Gloria Spotts, 432 E. Market
 Klinger, Kermit, No. Spruce
 Klinger, Gladys Romberger, No. Spruce
 Shirley, Gene
 Klock, Clara, Engle farm east of town
 Leonard Dreibelbis
 Knohr, Harry, 20 W. Market
 Knohr, Janet, 113 E. Market
 Knohr, Jennie, 113 E. Market
 Knohr, Mary, 113 E. Market
 Knohr, Ralph J., 113 E. Market
 Knorr, Claude, 313 E. Market
 Knorr, Ethel Scheib, 313 E. Market
 Claude, Jr.
 Kobel, Francis, 13 W. Market
 Kobel, Arlayne Welker, 13 W. Market
 Keith
 Koppenhaver, Benjamin, 538 E. Market

Koppenhaver, Verna Carl, 538 E. Market
 Koppenhaver, Clair, 114 E. So. Second
 Clair, Jr.
 Koppenhaver, Clarence, 25 E. Market
 Koppenhaver, Myrtle Kissinger, 25 E. Market
 Koppenhaver, Daisy Klinger, 101 W. Market
 Koppenhaver, George, Near airport
 Koppenhaver, Irene, Near airport
 Koppenhaver, George A., 32 E. Market
 Koppenhaver, Gilbert C., 327 E. Market
 Koppenhaver, Marie Klinger, 327 E. Market
 Gary, Bruce, Jane
 Koppenhaver, Henry, 208 E. Market
 Koppenhaver, Lula Miller, 208 E. Market
 William, Lorraine
 Koppenhaver, Kate, 126 E. So. Second
 Koppenhaver, Robert, 301 E. Market
 Koppenhaver, Freida Willier, 301 E. Market
 William J. Brosius
 Kratzer, Clarence U., No. Center
 Kratzer, Carrie Schwalm, No. Center
 Kratzer, Ralph
 Kratzer, Una Burns
 Christopher
 Kriner, Robert, 2 W. Market
 Kriner, Ruth Boyer, 2 W. Market
 Robert, Jr.
 Laudenslager, Edna, 43 E. Market
 Lois
 Laudenslager, Fred, 333 E. Market
 Laudenslager, Mae Enders, 333 E. Market
 Gary, Thomas Hepler, Carson Hepler
 Laudenslager, Haven, No. Center
 Laudenslager, Ruth Yoder, No. Center
 Penny, Joseph, Stephen, Sally, Michael,
 Dennis
 Laudenslager, Henry, No. Center
 Laudenslager, Elizabeth Wiest, No. Center
 Roger, Carol, Larry
 Laudenslager, Joseph, No. Center
 Laudenslager, Laura Wiest, No. Center
 Leitzel, Charles, No. Center
 Leitzel, Janet Bolen, No. Center
 Susan
 Leitzel, Clair, No. Center
 Leitzel, Eileen Klinger, No. Center
 Carol, Glenn
 Leitzel, John, No. Center
 Leitzel, Ruby Fetterolf, No. Center
 Leitzel, Naldy, 44 E. Market
 Leitzel, Hannah Rothermel, 44 E. Market
 Leitzel, Ray, 134 E. Market
 Leitzel, Betty Reed, 134 E. Market
 Ronnie, Connie
 Lettich, Guy
 Lettich, Ruth Koppenhaver
 Larry
 Long, Samuel, 38 E. Market
 Long, Laura Paul, 38 E. Market
 Sally, Karen, Mark
 Matter, Carrie Hoffman, No. Spruce
 Kathryn, Carl, Lamar, Russell, Dennis
 Maurer, Alma E., Loyalton Road

Maurer, J. Emerson, Loyalton Road
 Maurer, Gertrude, Loyalton Road
 John, Raymond, Shirley, Marvin, James
 Maurer, Robert E., Loyalton Road
 Maurer, Hannah Dockey, Loyalton Road
 Gail
 Miller, Eva Blyler, 531 E. Market
 Miller, Guy, 102 W. Market
 Miller, Patricia Blyler, 102 W. Market
 Penny Lee, Keith, Susie
 Miller, John, 19 E. Market
 Miller, Anna Paul, 19 E. Market
 Bonita
 Miller, Meta C., 8 W. Market
 Moyer, Earl, So. Center
 Moyer, Viola Wolfgang, So. Center
 Joyce, Shirley, Robert
 Moyer, J. Ed. A., 244 E. Market
 Moyer, Edna Romberger, 244 E. Market
 Muth, Reuben, 2 E. Market
 Muth, Katie Klinger, 2 E. Market
 Neagley, Roy, 5 E. Market
 Neagley, Minerva Shade, 5 E. Market
 Ney, Clair, 37 W. Market
 Ney, Ruth Stroup, 37 W. Market
 Dennis, Gene, John, Linda, Susan, Kathy
 Oxenrider, Almond, 120 E. So. Third
 Oxenrider, Anna Wiest, 120 E. So. Third
 Cherylene, Karen
 Paul, Melvin, 45 W. Market
 Paul, Eleanor Heddings, 45 W. Market
 Robert, Derl, Leah
 Paul, Stella Klinger, 19 E. Market
 Phillips, Carrie Mausser, 414 E. Market
 Phillips, Effie, 20 W. Market
 Phillips, Eleanor, 414 E. Market
 Phillips, Oscar, West of town
 Phillips, Margaret Strayer, West of town
 Phillips, Reda, 414 E. Market
 Larue
 Phillips, William E., 20 W. Market
 Rank, William, 13 W. Market
 Rank, Nancy, 13 W. Market
 Rose Marie
 Rebuck, Charles, 331 E. Market
 Rebuck, Derl, 319 W. Market
 Rebuck, Hilda Hentz, 319 W. Market
 Mary, Linda, Brenda
 Rebuck, Guy, 308 E. Market
 Rebuck, Mollie Scheib, 308 E. Market
 Randy, Rosalie
 Rebuck, W. I., 131 W. Market
 Rebuck, Mamie Adams, 131 W. Market
 Leah
 Reed, George, 103 E. Market
 Reed, Evelyn Laudenslager, 103 E. Market
 Jack
 Reed, John S., No. Center
 Reed, Vertie Geist, No. Center
 Reed, Marlin S., 313 W. Market
 Reed, Iva Troutman, 313 W. Market
 James, Marlin, Jr., Joseph, Polly

Reed, Betty, 43 W. Market
 Reigle, Avis, 120 E. Market
 Reigle, Harry, 120 E. Market
 Reigle, Bertha Scheib, 120 E. Market
 Reigle, John, So. Center
 Reitz, Lloyd, No. Center
 Reitz, Katie Snyder, No. Center
 Rogers, Leo F., 202 E. Market
 Rogers, Mae Hess, 202 E. Market
 Romberger, Clair, 308 W. Market
 Romberger, Mollie Hartman, 308 W. Market
 Jean, Ruby
 Rothermel, Ira, 31 W. Market
 Rothermel, Sallie Lehr, 31 W. Market
 Rothermel, Robert L., 543 E. Market
 Rothermel, Hilda Daniels, 543 E. Market
 Lehr
 Schade, Allen L., 5 E. Market
 Schade, Etta Hartman, 5 E. Market
 Charles, Clair
 Scheib, Pauline Wolfgang, 31 E. Market
 Schminky, John F. M., 537 E. Market
 Schminky, Carrie Maurer, 537 E. Market
 Schminky, Joseph, So. of Fair Grounds
 Schminky, Dorothy Smith, So. of Fair Grounds
 Bonnie, Joy, John
 Schoffstall, Anna L., 121 W. Market
 Schoffstall, John, 201 W. Market
 Schoffstall, Lillie Willier, 201 W. Market
 Stanley, Albert, Charles
 Schoffstall, John, Jr., No. Spruce
 Schoffstall, Margaret Hopple, No. Spruce
 Gerald, Linda
 Schwalm, Betty Heller, 410 E. Market
 Schwartz, Melvin, 45 E. Market
 Schwartz, Lena Mattern, 45 E. Market
 Glenn, Dale
 Searer, George, 8 W. Market
 Searer, Claire, 8 W. Market
 Searer, Esther, 8 W. Market
 Shade, Allen, 133 E. Market
 Shade, Beulah Kissinger, 314 E. Market
 Shade, Charles, 308 W. Market
 Shade, Dorothy Stutzman, 308 W. Market
 Shade, Cyril, 26 E. Market
 Shade, Lorraine Witmer, 26 E. Market
 Susan
 Shade, Daniel, 24 W. So. Second
 Shade, Annie Ramberger, 24 W. So. Second
 Shade, Fred, 243 W. Market
 Shade, Jennie Hartman, 243 W. Market
 Darlene
 Shade, Jack, 133 E. Market
 Shade, John D., 316 E. Market
 Shade, Katie Kahler, 316 E. Market
 Shade, Joseph, 215 E. Market
 Shade, Anna Smeltz, 215 E. Market
 Joanne, Robert
 Shade, Harry, 408 E. Market
 Shade, Mary Wagner, 408 E. Market
 Lucille
 Shade, Marlin, 133 E. Market
 Shade, Marlin, Jr., 213 E. Market

Shade, Anna Shade, 213 E. Market
 Sandra, Steven
 Shade, Walter, 22 W. So. Second
 Shade, Evelyn Fogle, 22 W. So. Second
 Walter, Richard
 Shade, William, No. Center
 Shade, Dora Miller, No. Center
 Lynn, William
 Shiro, Harry, So. of town
 Shiro, Verna Heim, So. of town
 Allen, Harry, Jr., Mary
 Shiro, Carrie, Loyalton Road
 Shiro, Jacob, Loyalton Road
 Shiro, Ida Laudenslager, Loyalton Road
 Sitlinger, Carl, 420 E. Market
 Sitlinger, Pauline Snyder, 420 E. Market
 Linda, Jane
 Sitlinger, George, 14 E. So. Third
 Sitlinger, Flossie Steely, 14 E. So. Third
 Sitlinger, Herold, 14 E. So. Third
 Sitlinger, Ruth Sherry, 14 E. So. Third
 Sitlinger, Jacob I., 20 E. So. Third
 Sitlinger, Carolyn Spotts, 20 E. So. Third
 Darryl
 Sitlinger, Norman, 126 W. Market
 Sitlinger, Elsie Welker, 126 W. Market
 Sitlinger, Robert, 26 E. So. Third
 Sitlinger, Anna Scheib, 26 E. So. Third
 Robert, Thomas
 Smeltz, Luther, 25 W. Market
 Smeltz, Fae Klinger, 25 W. Market
 Smeltz, Stanford O., 525 E. Market
 Smeltz, Martha Shadle, 525 E. Market
 Snyder, Earl, 32 W. Market
 Snyder, Carrie Smeltz, 32 W. Market
 Guy
 Snyder, Ray H., 14 W. Market
 Snyder, Salome Miller, 14 W. Market
 Spotts, Harold, 237 E. Market
 Spotts, Ruth Bowman, 237 E. Market
 Dora Mae
 Starr, Earl, No. Center
 Starr, Mary Laudenslager, No. Center
 Carolyn, Darlene, Shirley
 Stiely, Ruth Reigle, 444 E. Market
 Stine, Peter, 339 E. Market
 Stine, Marie Umholtz, 339 E. Market
 Becci, Bobby
 Straub, Clarence, 309 W. Market
 Straub, Cora Jacobs, 309 W. Market
 Carolyn
 Strayer, Lucy Bowman, 9 W. Market
 Ronald
 Stroup, Mark, 201 E. Market
 Stroup, Alma Brosius, 201 E. Market
 Randolph
 Stroup, Melvin, 215 W. Market
 Stroup, Fae Enders, 215 W. Market
 Sundy, Scott, 16 W. So. Second
 Sundy, Katie Klinger, 16 W. So. Second
 Troutman, Harry, 108 E. Market
 Troutman, Lloyd, 120 W. Market
 Troutman, Beulah Straub, 120 W. Market
 Troxell, Harry, So. Center

Troxell, Mazie Umholtz, So. Center
Troxell, Ralph F., So. Center

Umholtz, Blair F., 22 E. Market
Umholtz, Fronie Ossman, 22 E. Market
Umholtz, George, Farm So. of airport
Umholtz, Irene, Farm So. of airport
George, Jr.

Umholtz, Hannah Shade, 243 E. Market
Umholtz, Harold H., 502 E. Market
Umholtz, Ethel Rothermel, 502 E. Market
Harriet

Umholtz, Marlin, 37 E. Market
Umholtz, Laura Matter, 37 E. Market
Umholtz, Walter F., 402 E. Market
Umholtz, Fae Klinger, 402 E. Market

Walborn, Grace Longabach, No. Spruce
Welker, Walter, 132 W. Market
Welker, Pauline Wiest, 132 W. Market
Larry, Jerry

Wiest, James, 426 E. Market
Wiest, Katie Hain, 426 E. Market
Gerald, Kenneth, Lynn, Alma

Wiest, Luther, So. Center
Wiest, Kathryn Romberger, So. Center
Wiest, Roy, 202 W. Market

Wiest, Mary Koppenhaver, 202 W. Market
Bruce, Nancy

Williard, Alvin, 102 E. So. Third
Williard, Mae Smeltz, 102 E. So. Third
Williard, Donald, 119 W. Market

Williard, Helen Seitz, 119 W. Market
Alice, Clara Jean

Williard, Fred, So. of town

Williard, Hannah Wiest, So. of town
Clair, Dennis, Wanda

Williard, Grace, 144 E. So. Second

Williard, John C., 144 E. So. Third

Williard, Esther Adams, 144 E. So. Third
Tim

Williard, Marlin, S. W. of town

Williard, Margaret Hoffman, S. W. of town
Barry, Merle

Williard, Stella Carl, 544 E. Market

Willier, Catherine Miller, 301 E. Market

Wise, Charles M., 137 E. Market

Witmer, Ida, 116 E. Market

Witmer, Sula, 116 E. Market

Witmer, Ralph H., So. Center

Witmer, Erma Umholtz, So. Center

Wolfgang, Paul, West of town

Wolfgang, Lorraine Morgan, West of town
Gerald

Wolfgang, Violet, 114 E. Market

Wood, Emily Hoffman, 5 W. Market
William

Zerfing, A. LeRoy, 19 W. Market

Zerfing, Bessie Radel, 19 W. Market
Dale, Sandra

Zerfing, Minnie Lebo, 19 W. Market

Zimmerman, Lewis, 243 E. Market

SCENES ABOUT THE TOWN



The Polar Swirl Frozen Custard Stand
Courtesy — Valley Citizen

MAPS

- I. The Original Land Grants and Patents
- II. Gratz Borough and Lykens Township 1862
- III. Gratz 1862
- IV. Lykens Township 1875
- V. Gratz 1875
- VI. Lykens Township 1955
- VII. Gratz 1955

113A
George Meyer
Henry Meyer
Ulrich Meyer
Piccon
war 1765
113A

Jacob Heller
142A
1821
Bend
"Limestone Lick"
"Horn Tapper"

MATTHIAS DIBLER
336A.
"Louisburg"

ALBRIGHT
Horn Pipe

MILFFLIN TWP.
Wilmington

1016A
JOHN MEYER
to Godfreid Leitz

PETE
1819
un 22
819 Pat. 1830
326A
MICHAEL
1400A
GUNC
Walnut
URTZ
Buckling
1784
55A
1787
Elias
Guttinger

DANIEL
MAUNER
1773 Pat. 1788
Nicolas Schell
Beyond the Hills
87
1865
Grove
JACOB
to Ab
war

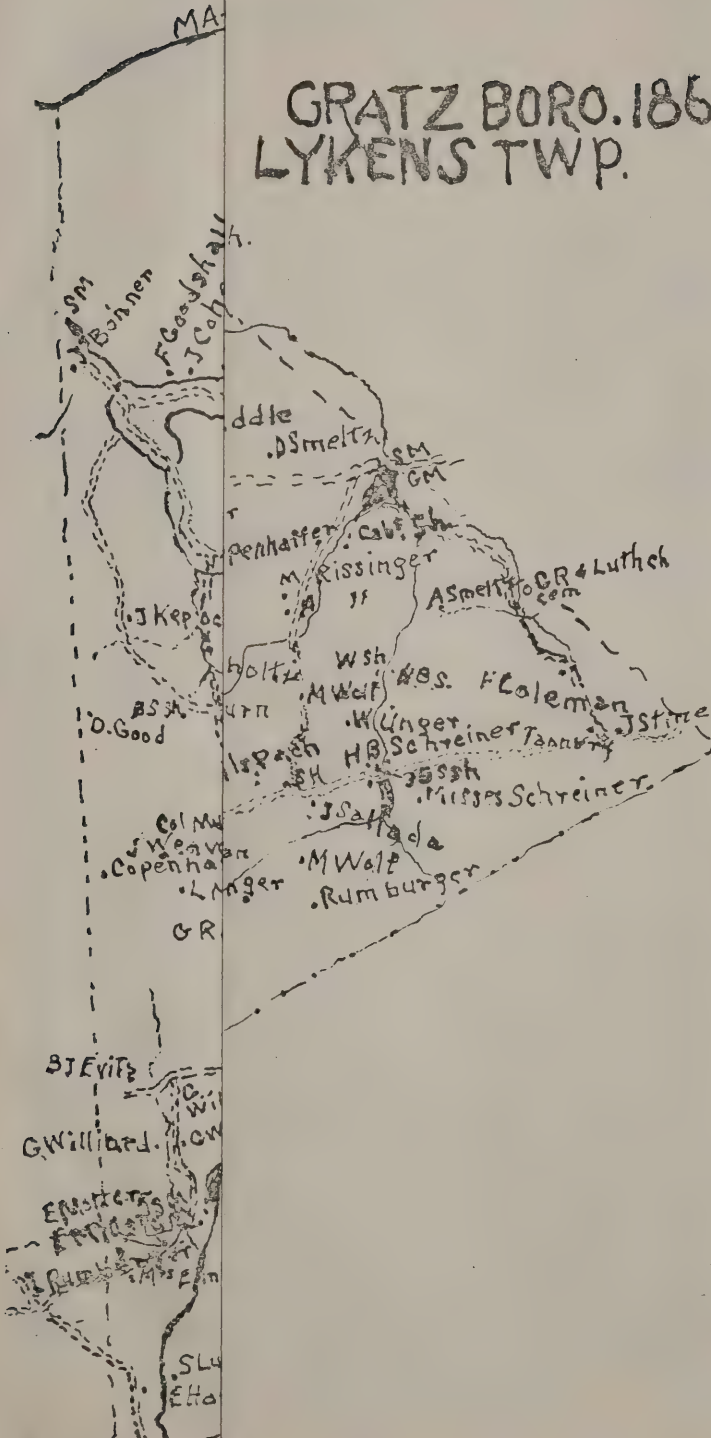
John Swineford
1794A
1796
Greenfold
ALBRIGHT
Swineford
1773
1814
Samuel Dubendor

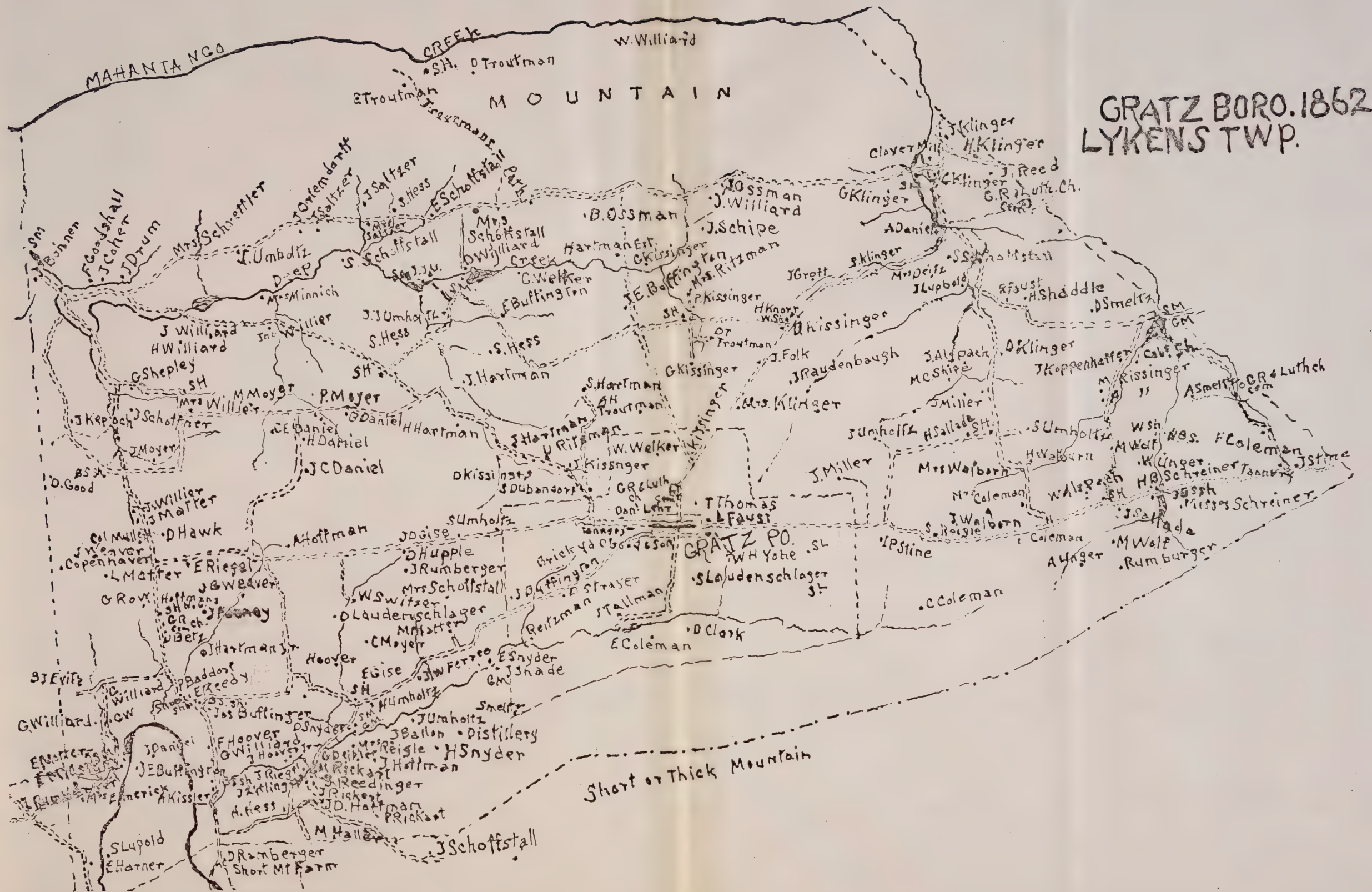
OR
AARON
LEVY
306A.
Pat 1776
Wild Cat H

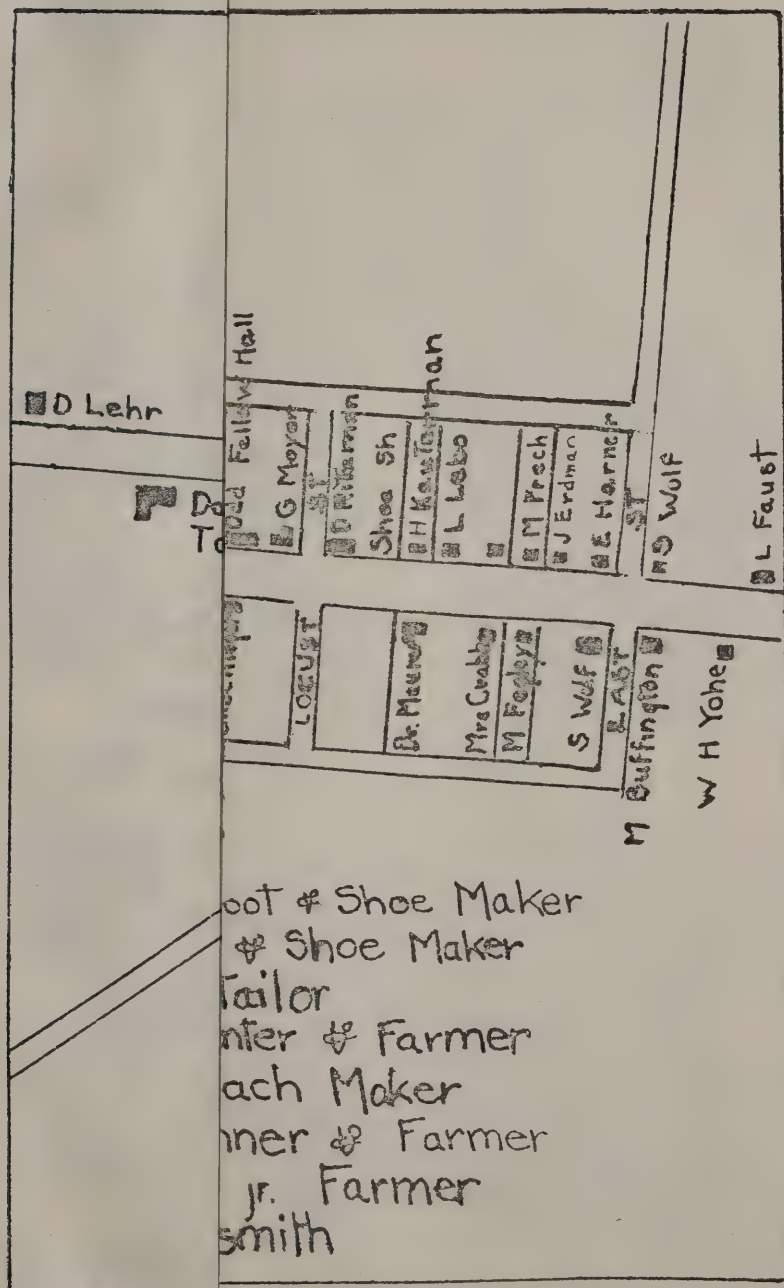
John Hall
169A
Pat 1801
Wilmington
Jaco
Hott
1778
Pat 1801
John
O.A.
ONLEVY 404A
1796 Pat may 1776
non Gratz



GRATZ BORO. 1862 LYKENS TWP.

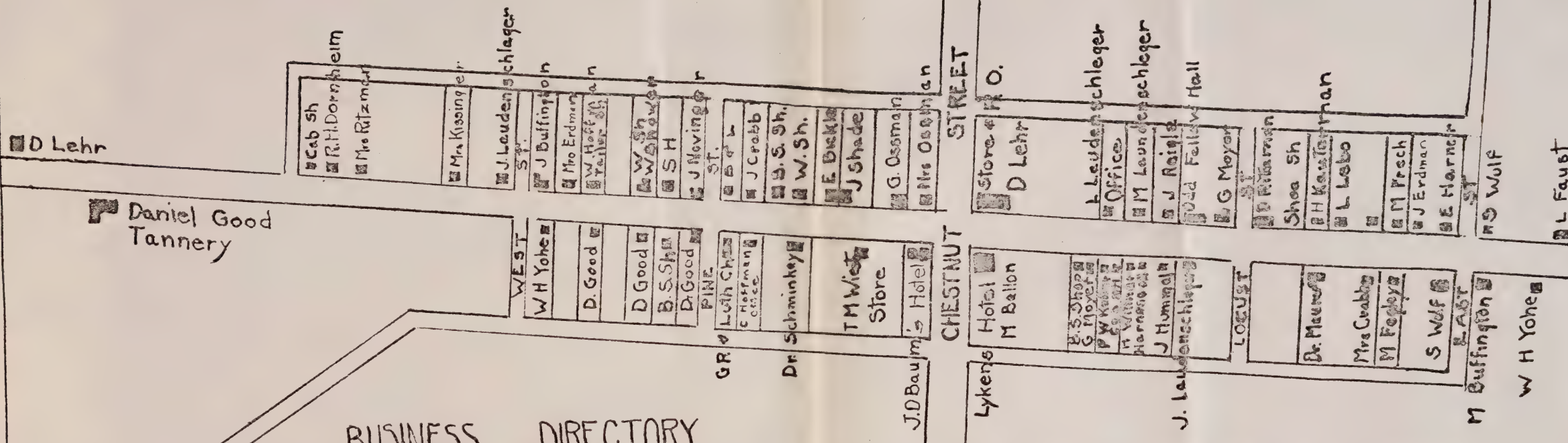






GRATZ 1862

GR. & Luth Ch.
Cem.



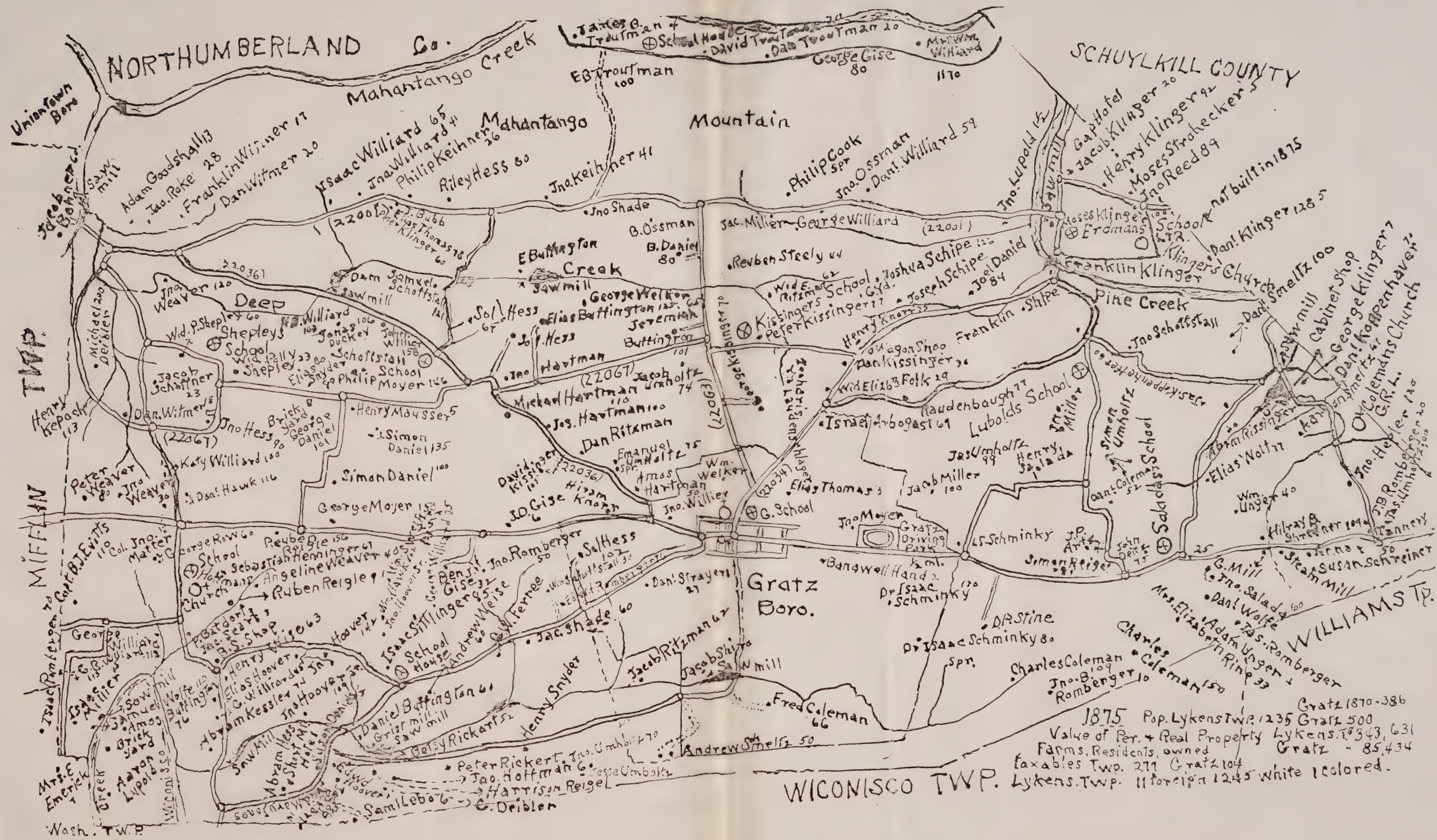
BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Jonas Laudenschlager - Squire
 I. S. Schminkey - Physician
 M. Ballon - Prop. Lykens Hotel
 J. D. Baum Prop. Hotel
 Dan. Lehr Post Master - Dealer Gen. Merchandice
 J C Good Tanner & Currier
 P W Keiter - Undertaker - Cab Ware & Chair Manuf.
 Henry Witmer - Saddler & Harness Maker

Henry Kauterman - Boot & Shoe Maker
 Geo Ossman - Boot & Shoe Maker
 William Hoffman - Tailor
 W. H. Yohe - Carpenter & Farmer
 Jno Kissinger - Coach Maker
 Daniel Good - Tanner & Farmer
 Jacob Buffington jr. Farmer
 J Crabb - Blacksmith

[illegible]

CO TWP. Lykens Twp. 11 foreign 1245 white 1 colored.



1875 Pop. Lykens Twp. 1235 Gratz 500
Value of Per. + Real Property Lykens Twp. 343,631
Farms, Residents, owned Gratz - 85,434
Taxables Twp. 271 Gratz 104
Lykens Twp. 11 foreign 1245 white 1 colored.

John Laudenslager-Retired Farmer
 Dr I S Schminky Physician
 Jonathan Umholtz Post Master
 Isaac Hepler-Dealer Gen. Merchandice
 Tobias Wiesl-Drafter Gen. Merchandice

Z 1875

500 Taxables 104
 ired Farmers 11
 al Property. \$85,434

95	Bornheim
93	
59	Ike Hoffman
61	Samuel Wise
63	David Clark
STREET	
65	Elias Zerfling
67	John Welker
69	John Umholtz New house by Henry
71	John Kambell
73	Zerfling lots
75	
77	
79	Soon after by John Keener

96	
94	
92	
60	Later Chas. Hess
62	
64	Henry Tobias
66	at house in EAST
68	Jacob McHoldy
70	Rebecca Bulfinch
72	Daniel Welker
74	Wm. McHoldy
76	Ben Crabbs
78	Aaron Rabuck
80	

John Laydenslager-Retired Farmer
 Dr Isaac Schminky-Physician
 Jonathan Umholtz-Post Master
 Isaac Hepler-Dealer Gen. Merchandise
 Tobias Wiesl-Dealer Gen. Merchandise
 Squire Wm Scol-Boyer-Geo Hoffmann
 Jacob William McNoldy-Undertaker
 J.J. Buffington-Saddler & Barber
 Henry Kauterman-Shoe Maker
 Abraham Dreibiblis-Restaurant
 Aaron Rabuck-Auctioneer
 John & James Hoffman-Tinsmith-Hardware
 Franklin Fiddler-Carpenter
 Elias Zerfing-Farmer-Carpenter
 Daniel Blyler-Union Hotel
 Andrew Hepler-Lykens Hotel
 Samuel Wise-Tanner
 David Clark-Farmer-Bulcher
 Ike Hoffman-Cabinet maker-Dornheim
 Benneville Hoyer-Cigar Maker
 Henry Walborn-Tinsmith
 Peter Kember-Carpenter
 Henry Kreiser-Blacksmith-Ben Crabb
 Daniel Welker-U.S. Mail Driver

Cemetery----



SCHOOL HOUSE
 Built about 1874

GRATZ 1875

Population 500 Taxables 104
 Miners 8 Retired Farmers 11
 Personal & Real Property - \$85,434

95 Dornheim
93
91
89 Susan Ritzman
87 Sam Ritzman
85 Capt. Gen. Smith
83
81 Franklin Elmer

STREET

1 Peter Ritzman
3 Geo. Ritzman
5 Geo. Ritzman
7
9 Mrs. Mary Ritzman
11 Buffington
13 100 ft. Hall
15 Simon Hepler

STREET

17 Simon Hepler
19 John Laydenslager
21 Benneville Hoyer
23 Wm. Walborn
25 John & James
27 John Kreiser
29 Isaac Hepler
31 Aaron Dreibiblis

MARKET

96
94
92
90
88
86
84
Benjamin 82

WEST

Henry Feffer 2
4
Red" Jno Umholtz 16
John D. Kissinger
Chas Buffington 10
Mrs D Good 12
14
Riley Hess 16
Later Henry Dapine

EVAN. CHURCH

18
20
22
24
26
28
30
32

CENTRE

Andrew Hepler 34
Isaac Hepler 36
Geo W Sebald 38
40
Mrs Rebecca Scholiss 42
Henry Kreiser 44
Peter Kambell 46
Henry Kauterman 48

CHESTNUT

Orchard 50
52
Henry Maurer 54
Vasop Box 56
Lewis D. Hoyer 58
Later Chas. Hepler 60
62
Henry Tobias 64
at house in EAST

Jacob McNoldy 66
Mrs Rebecca Buffington 68
Daniel Walker 70
Wm. McNoldy 72
74
Ben Crabb 76
Aaron Rabuck 78
80

Jonathan Umholtz
 Oscar Tobias

33 Po
 35
 37

Jonathan Umholtz
 Aaron Ritzman
 Schoffstall
 Wm. Walborn

Store & Post Office

STREET

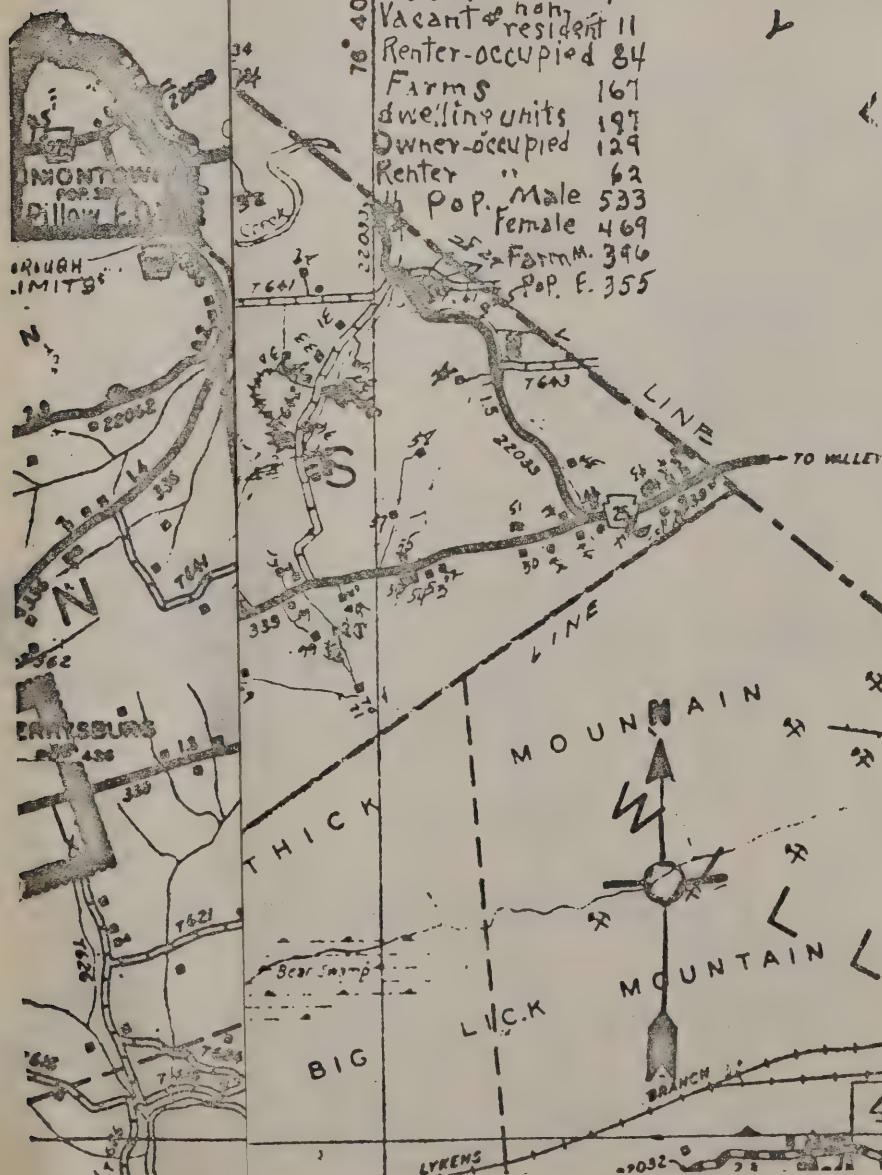
47 Mich. al

STREET

49 Elizabeth (Beisy) Ritzman
51
53 Emanuel Kember
55
57 Lepold Labe
59 Ike Hoffman
61 Samuel Wise
63 David Clark

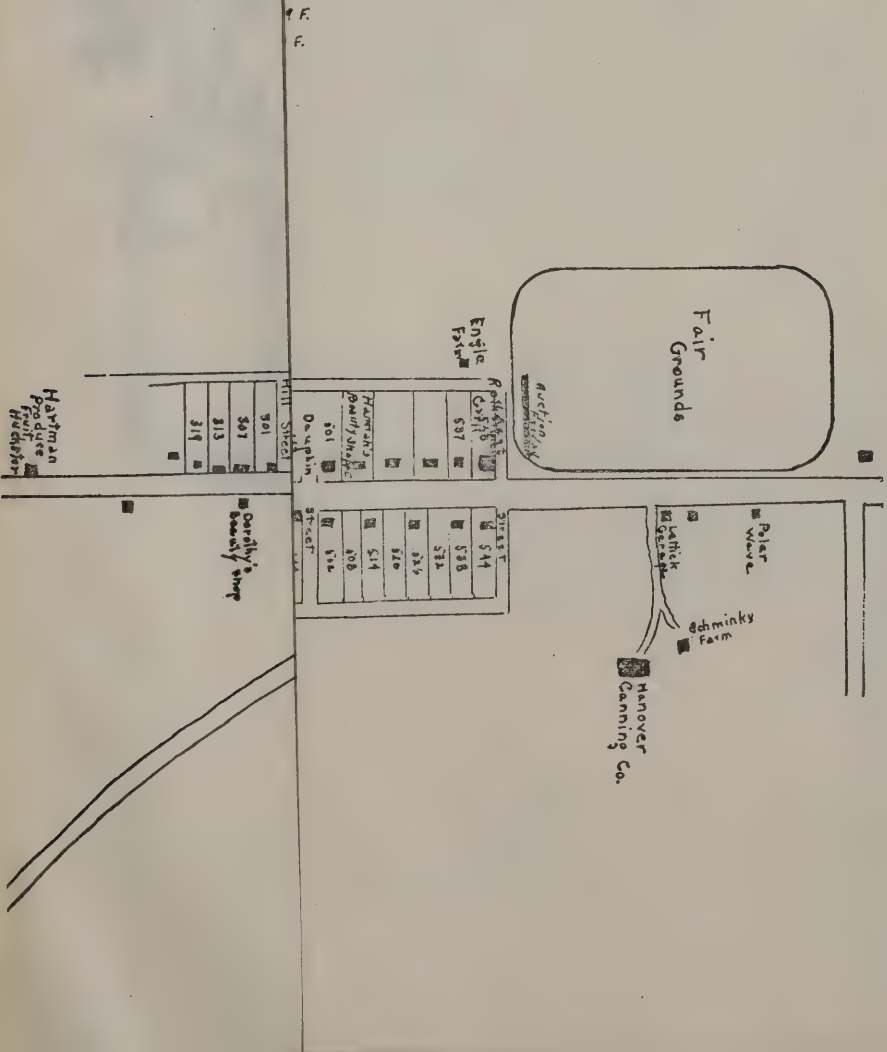
STREET

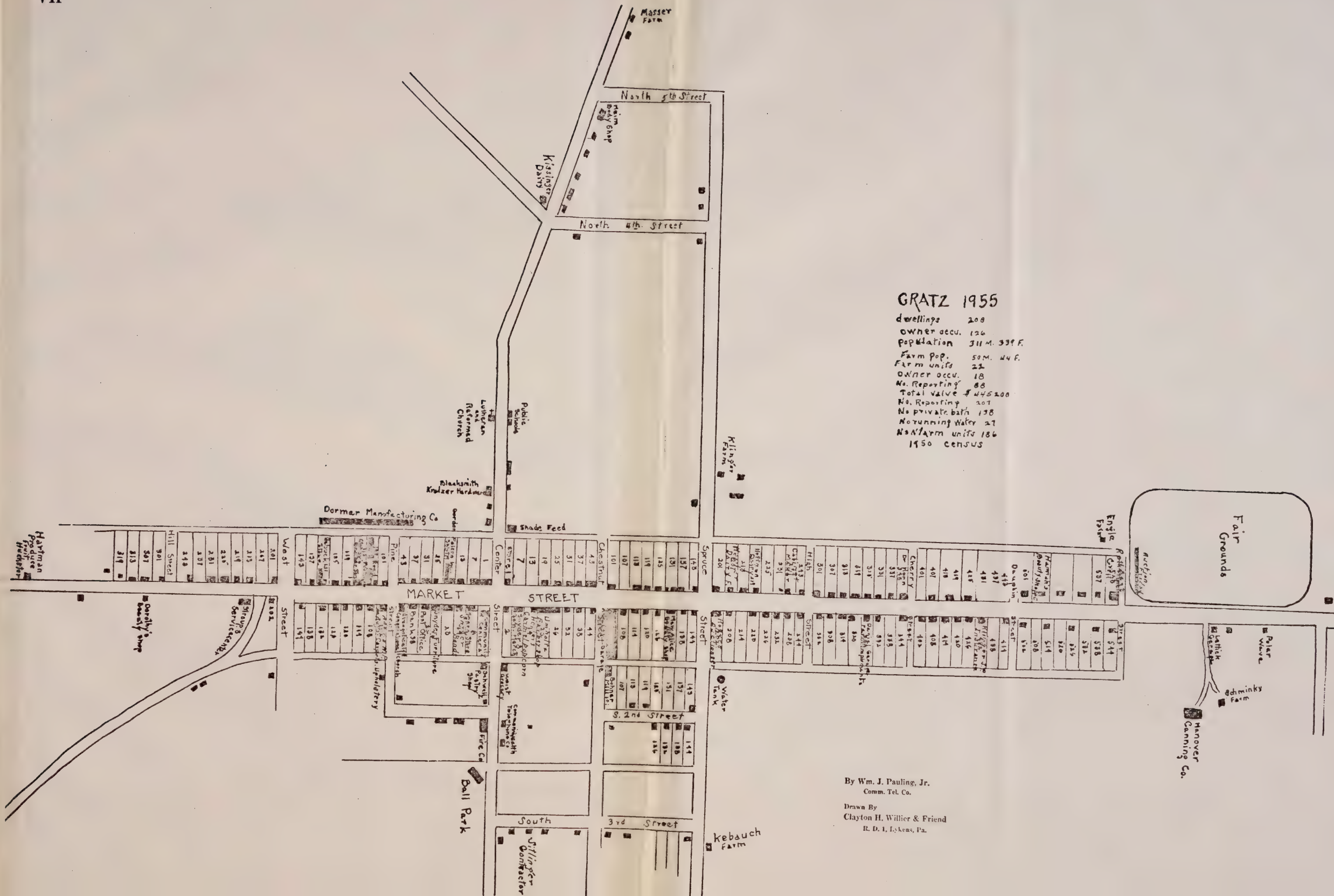
65 Elias Zerfing
67 John Welker
69 John Umholtz house by Henry
71 John Kambell
73
75 Zerfing lots
77
79 Soon offer by John Keener





1950
LYKENS TWP.
All dwellings 281.
Owner occupied 185
Vacant 96
Vacant non-resident 11
Renter-occupied 84
Farms 167
dwelling units 197
Owner-occupied 129
Renter 62
Pop. Male 533
Female 469
Farm. 396
Pop. F. 355







4100

